

Causeway Area: Pre-Publication Consultation
13 September 2021 – 15 November 2021

Presentation Transcript

Thank you for watching and listening to this presentation on the proposal by the Education Authority to establish a new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1200 pupils in the Causeway area.

My name is Sinead McCartan, I'm a member of the Area Planning team in the Education Authority and I will be joined later in the presentation by my colleague, Nigel Freeburn.

On behalf of the Education Authority, the Boards of Governors of Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College, the Ulster University, the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education and the Controlled Schools' Support Council, we would like to welcome you to the start of the pre-publication consultation on a new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for the Causeway area in partnership with Ulster University.

Throughout this presentation I will outline the vision, rationale and process for this proposal, to establish a new controlled integrated post- primary school for the Causeway area.

This PowerPoint is an overview and should be considered along with the consultation document which provides more detail on the proposal and is also available on the EA website.

Nigel will now take you through the vision and rationale.

Thanks Sinead

The Education Authority has, over the last two years, worked with the three schools, Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College, to identify a vision for non-selective post-primary provision for the Causeway area.

Following detailed engagements and discussion, the proposal for the new controlled integrated post-primary school was developed in conjunction with Ulster University, NICIE and CSSC. All agree, that a 'one school solution' will provide a unique opportunity to create a new and better learning experience for all children and young people in the Causeway area.

This will truly be a school for the future, learner-focused, supporting the growth of every learner both academically and socially, and be part of a unique partnership with Ulster University. The new school will provide for a broader curriculum offer and will support the growth of every learner. It will be a school for everyone.

The vision for the new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective, controlled integrated post-primary school will be:

Pioneering - A first for Northern Ireland, partnering with Ulster University - a great opportunity within the Causeway area. The vision for the new controlled integrated

post-primary school is to be located on the University Campus, Coleraine. Whilst this is the vision, it is subject to a rigorous appraisal and business case process, to determine the site for the new school.

With all great visions, comes the practical steps that must follow. The first stage in this process is a Development Proposal and this pre-publication consultation is the initial part of this process. The ultimate vision is to establish a 'fit for purpose', new controlled integrated post-primary school, to start in September 2024, followed by a new build school by 2030.

It will be synergistic - building on the strengths of Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College.

Inclusive - Creating a learning environment in which young people from Catholic and Protestant faiths, other faiths, cultures and communities, learn together on a daily basis in the one school.

Focused - Providing ease of access to academic, technical and vocational education, tailored to individual student needs. Enhanced through the partnership with Ulster University through extending pupils', and indeed parents', experience, with access to resources and facilities and for staff, as part of professional learning and development. The University's School of Education is ranked among the top 6 for research impact in the UK.

Strategic - The new school will meet the strategic aspirations of the new priorities of the restored Executive as part of 'Transforming...public services ...in education and justice,' and the 'New Decade, New Approach' - as part of the Independent Review of Education, the political parties agree that the Executive will commission and oversee an independent fundamental review with a focus on quality and sustainability.

As indicated, the EA is proposing a new controlled integrated post-primary school for the Causeway area. Michele Corkey, Director of Education will now outline the EA's commitment to the vision and the benefits that the new school will offer.

On behalf of the Chief Executive and corporate leadership team, we are delighted to be launching the pre-publication consultation, on this innovative and visionary proposal for educational provision in the Causeway area.

The new proposed controlled integrated post-primary school, provides a unique and pioneering opportunity to create new learning experiences, not only for the children and young people in the causeway area, but indeed for the wider community. Partnering with Ulster University will be a first for Northern Ireland, and indeed one of only a small number of provisions of this type in Europe.

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

- *A high quality, pupil-centred educational experience for all, building on the existing strengths of all three schools.*

- *High quality leadership and management that promotes a culture of excellence.*
- *This project also aims to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, catering for all students, and providing more opportunities to collaborate across all sectors in the Causeway area.*
- *We aim to create learning opportunities, not only within the curriculum, but indeed beyond the curriculum. This will enable each pupil to reach their full potential, thereby creating confident, independent, versatile and successful adults, equipped with the skills and values to contribute effectively to society.*
- *This project also hopes to facilitate an inclusive learning environment in which children from all faiths, cultures and communities, learn together on a daily basis in the one school.*
- *As part of the Ulster University's widening participation programme, this partnership will bring opportunities for more effective continuous professional development, relevant research expertise, and in addition, will provide real teaching experiences for undergraduate and post-graduate students, encompassing work experience and access to courses.*

Building on the existing committed governance and leadership of the three schools, will ensure that this innovative new school will have a solid foundation on which to build.

We encourage you to engage in this pre-publication consultation, which gives you the opportunity to contribute to this new and exciting proposal.

Thank you Michelle for those inspiring words.

Many will be asking the question - why change - why just not leave the three schools the way they are?

The Department of Education's 'Schools for the Future - A Policy for Sustainable Schools', identifies a sustainable post-primary school as having a minimum enrolment of 500 pupils in Years 8-12, and no fewer than 100 pupils in post-16.

All three schools fall below this threshold, with only one school having a small post-16 provision.

As you will know, all three schools draw pupils from a similar catchment area - all competing for the same pool of pupils.

The majority of a school's funding is based on the number of pupils, and all three schools are experiencing financial challenges and currently do not operate within their 'in-year' budgets, so their expenditure is greater than their budget allocation.

Again, linked to enrolment numbers, the three schools also experience curriculum challenges, particularly in relation to the delivery of the Entitlement Framework potentially limiting opportunities and subject choices for students in the Causeway

area.

Coming together in one school will bring greater sustainability through stable enrolments, increased resources, broader curricular provision and more opportunities for children and young people, and in keeping with the key Ministerial priorities for sustainability, including post-16.

A new school will offer an opportunity to create a new learning experience for all young people in the Causeway area.

A learner-focused environment which promotes sustainable development and good personal health and well-being for the whole school community.

Support for every learner to grow in line with the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

The opportunity for young people to fulfil their potential.

Stable enrolment and finances, strong leadership and management and links to the community.

The primary focus of any change must be improvements for children and young people. In proposing a new controlled integrated post-primary school for the Causeway area, the school will provide pupils with:

Access to a broader choice of both at Key Stage 4 and post-16. This course provision will be enriched even further through a dynamic partnership with Ulster University and we will hear directly from them shortly. Other collaborations with Further Education and other providers will ensure that the students have access to, and meet the requirements of the Entitlement Framework.

In a new era for education in Northern Ireland, children from both Catholic and Protestant faiths, children of other faiths, cultures and communities will be learning together on a daily basis in one school. The creation of a controlled integrated post-primary school ensures the protection of the unique characteristics of Controlled ethos whilst celebrating difference and embracing the inclusive nature of educating pupils together. A school for everyone.

The new school will also provide targeted support for children with additional needs. The establishment of specialist provision, to include Autism and Learning Support Classes, which will transform the opportunities and ensure access to a meaningful inclusive educational experience. Pupils will have specialist provision on site at the point of need.

The new school will also be able to offer pupils a full range of before-and-after school activities, which will enhance and develop a powerful 'hidden curriculum' that enriches the school experience of every student, linked together with our commitment to Community Use of Schools.

As mentioned previously the vision for the proposed new controlled integrated

post-primary school is the unique partnership the school will have with Ulster University, Coleraine.

This is a ground-breaking concept, a first for Northern Ireland, which has many mutual benefits for the school, the University and the local community and I am pleased to introduce the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Seawright from Ulster University, to outline the benefits of the partnership.

Ulster University's delighted to play a key role in what will be a compelling, progressive and unique education partnership for Northern Ireland.

Our multi-campus model is important for regional balance in Northern Ireland and it's a key aspect of our mission as a civic University, and we've slightly different expertise and subjects on each campus, delivering world class teaching and research throughout our operation, including at Coleraine, where our award-winning School of Education is based.

Inclusivity has been at the core of Ulster University's ethos for the past 50 years and within our School of Education and across the University, our pioneering research has helped challenge the status quo and pushed boundaries across the education sector.

Within that context, the collaboration with a project like this could offer transformational opportunities to young people in this region in a new integrated setting, and it's an exciting opportunity for the University.

A collaboration between the school of education in our Coleraine campus and a post-primary school could contribute to social renewal, offer an exciting combination of practice-based research and other opportunities including student placements, research opportunities, and the potential for integrated progression on to our degree courses for pupils.

Our successful student volunteering schemes, the tutoring in schools initiative and student ambassador programmes are important components in the vision we have for this collaboration.

There's also excellent CPD opportunities here for teachers and a new school leadership team as they work to deliver the merger.

The partnership with Ulster University in Coleraine, particularly with our close proximity to the River Bann and our extensive campus estate presents scope for exciting outdoor education, collaborations with PGCE Physical Education and undergraduate sports studies and creates a great opportunity for research, informed practice and engagement.

One of the driving principles of this proposal, is to provide an opportunity for young people of all abilities, to fulfil their potential.

A University partnership creates a potential to focus on the education and welfare of the whole child, through a multi-disciplinary approach.

As a widening access University Ulster has provided life-changing opportunities for people in some of the hardest to reach communities in Northern Ireland, but there are still many people who have still not experienced the full benefits of higher education.

Through this partnership, we can offer life-long engagement with the potential to deliver community-wide teaching, with the provision of short courses for parents and other family members, providing a bridge to the local community through a range of courses and activities. And we're proud and excited to collaborate on this important and brave advancement in post-primary education in the Coleraine and Causeway region.

Thank you very much Professor Seawright.

And the enrolment for the proposed new controlled integrated post-primary school is 1,200, a large post-primary school in its own right; but a partnership with Ulster University, Coleraine, as outlined by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Seawright, will enhance provision, through: continued professional development for staff; access to facilities and resources; enhanced professional links with the school and University, sharing up-to-date developments and learning.

Sinead will now outline the purpose of Area Planning, the Development Proposal process, the pre-publication consultation, and how to respond. Throughout this presentation, reference has been made to a 'proposed' new controlled integrated post-primary school. The reason it is 'proposed' is that there are very clear distinctions of the roles of the Education Authority and the Department of Education.

The Education Authority is the proposer: taking forward a proposal and seeking your views and comments through this pre-publication consultation.

North Coast Integrated College is also a proposer, and has asked the EA to undertake this part of the consultation on its behalf.

The decision maker is the Department of Education.

The Education Authority can only propose, with the ultimate decision being that of the Education Minister.

Therefore, I stress that the new controlled integrated post-primary school is only a proposal at this stage and is subject to a number of stages before being considered by the Minister.

This proposal is being taken forward through Area Planning. The key aim of Area Planning, is to ensure all pupils have access to high quality education that meets their needs, in schools that are educationally and financially viable.

This is achieved through a network of sustainable schools that are of the right type, the right size, located in the right place and have a focus on raising standards.

Over the past two years, the Education Authority has been working in close

partnership with the school leaders, governors and trustees of all three schools, NICIE and CSSC, to discuss sustainable non-selective post-primary provision in the area.

These discussions have been robust and all options considered. The four options identified were discussed and debated at length, with 'Option 4' being identified as best meeting the needs of children and young people of the area.

In Option 4, the school will have an admissions number of 200 and an enrolment number of 1,200.

These options are detailed further in the consultation document available on the Education Authority website, with links to all documentation highlighted at the end of this presentation.

To establish a new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school in Coleraine, in partnership with Ulster University, is in effect an amalgamation of Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College.

The legislation does not provide for an amalgamation, rather, the discontinuance of the three schools is required to facilitate the establishment of the new school.

In taking forward this proposal, the Education Authority will seek major capital investment from the Department of Education for the construction of a new build controlled integrated post-primary school.

Any decision in relation to the site is subject to business case approval.

The Education Authority's Mission is to provide a high quality education for every child.

In order to achieve our mission the Education Authority have a short, medium and long-term plan.

Over the next three years we would like to see the approval of the Development Proposal to establish the new school in 2022 and implementation with effect from 1st September 2024.

In the short term, 2022-24 this would involve the establishment of an interim Board of Governors, with equal representation from all three schools, appointment of a Principal Designate, and the alignment of curricular planning and provision between the three schools.

The three schools will also commence collaborative work with the University. In tandem, a business case for capital investment would commence for a new school-build, supported by the Education Authority, NICIE, CSSC and the University.

In the medium term, between 2024 and 2027, the new school would be established in partnership with the University, the new Board of Governors in place and an implementation/action plan progressed. The new school would continue to embed

the Controlled Integrated ethos and culture within the new school.

The business case and design work would be completed at this point.

It is our vision that in the long-term, 2027-2030, a new school build would be completed.

Whilst unfortunate, it is the way the process is currently configured, - we need an approved Development Proposal before seeking capital investment for the new school.

To make all of this possible a Development Proposal is required under Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, and Article 92 of the Education Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 1989.

The purpose of the Development Proposal is to ensure that all interested parties are informed, consulted and involved about proposed changes to schools, and to have an opportunity to comment before a decision is made.

Again, as indicated earlier, the Minister makes the final decision on a Development Proposal.

In ensuring that all interested parties are informed and consulted about the proposed change to schools, and to have an opportunity to comment before a decision is made, the Education Authority wishes to consult with you on the proposal for the Causeway area for a new, co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils.

This presentation starts an 8 week pre-publication consultation period, running from 13 September to 15 November 2021, during which time the Education Authority will engage with staff, governors, parents, guardians and pupils to hear your view on the proposal for the Causeway area. During this period, the Education Authority welcomes your comments.

Pre-publication consultation sessions have been arranged for governors and staff on 15 September 2021.

Pre-publication consultation sessions have been arranged for parents and guardians and consultations are being taken forward on:

Thursday 16 September, Tuesday 21, Wednesday 22 and Monday 27 September 2021 - all virtual and all starting at 7.00 pm.

Nigel and I along with the Area Planning team will be there at the consultation sessions to answer any of your questions or queries.

Prior to these pre-publication consultation sessions, I would encourage you read the consultation document, again available on the Education Authority's website.

Registration to the sessions is through 'Eventbrite'. The link is on the Education

Authority's website.

The Education Authority's Youth Service will undertake consultation with pupils to gather their views on the proposal.

This presentation, as well as a consultation document, easy read version, and video presentation for children and young people, are all available on the Education Authority's website.

The Education Authority welcomes your views and comments and these can be made online, by email or by post.

Should you have any queries, please contact us by email.

In summary, the proposal is 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.

We would like to thank you for taking the time to listen to the proposal and look forward to receiving your comments during the pre-publication consultation period, 13 September to 15 November 2021.