



## Media Release

Embargo until 00.01am Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November

**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> November

### **Improving educational outcomes drives Committee transformation plans**

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The Committee for Education, Sport & Culture has published its policy letter outlining its recommendations for the transformation of secondary and post-16 education.

‘We are absolutely committed to improving educational outcomes and that’s our number one reason for the changes we are proposing,’ said Committee President, Deputy Paul Le Pelley.

‘We feel strongly that every young person must have equality of opportunity to access a broad, rich, engaging, challenging curriculum and that everyone has the chance to reach their full potential.

‘Our recommendations deliver an inclusive education system with the best interests of all our children and young people at its heart. This is not about buildings, this is about learning; this is not driven by saving money it is driven by a desire to have the best education system we possibly can,’ said Deputy Le Pelley.

The Committee is recommending:

- An **inclusive Sixth Form College** offering all **full-time** courses for 16 to 19 year olds including A Levels, International Baccalaureate and full-time vocational, applied and technical courses on the Les Varendes site. The Sixth Form College will deliver courses from Entry Level to Level 3 (all levels up to A Level equivalent) and so provide pathways for students with special educational needs and those who may need to retake GCSEs or other Level 2 qualifications.

Students will also be able to move up and progress through the levels if they need to. Students following this pathway will be able to stay at the Sixth Form College beyond the age of 19 if they wish and if it was beneficial to them.

- A **Further and Higher Education Institute** providing learning opportunities for those who have already chosen a course that is delivered in a work-place environment, or they have started work and seek additional skills to support their career pathway. It

will provide all **part-time**, work-related training, which includes the Apprenticeship Scheme, further and higher education and other part-time courses.

The Further and Higher Education Institute will initially work in close partnership with the GTA University Centre and Institute of Health & Social Care Studies with a view to creating the Guernsey University College in the longer term. The Committee will set up a working group with all relevant providers to look at this in detail.

- **Three all-ability 11-16 secondary schools.** The current St Sampson's High, the current Les Beaucamps High and a new school built next to the existing La Mare de Carteret High School.

These schools will have between 5 and 8 forms of entry in each year and will have a minimum of 600 and a maximum of 1,000 pupils in line with independent research on optimal secondary school size. The three schools will have an all-ability intake and will provide equality of access to a broad curriculum. Pupils will be grouped by ability in some subjects where it best meets their needs. Pupils will not need to move between schools to access this broad curriculum.

- There will be greater flexibility of school placement for those with special educational needs with further regard paid to the wishes of parents/carers in where they feel their child would best be placed. This could be through providing direct support in mainstream school. Every child's placement would be considered on an individual basis through professional discussion in consultation with parents/carers. All the recommendations support the aims of the Disability and Inclusion Strategy and comply with the UN convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

'We are absolutely sure that our proposals represent the very best for the future education of our children and young people,' said Deputy Le Pelley.

'Our recommendations are evidence-based; they take the best from elsewhere but place it in our unique island context with the aim of meeting the needs of our young people and our economy. We have also carefully considered how we will transition to our new model; how children will be allocated to their new schools, how they will all benefit from our new inclusive post-16 structure and how our staff will be successfully deployed into new roles with as least disruption to learning as possible,' he said.

'It is vital that the States stick to their previous resolutions and make a firm decision by the end of this year. Our parents want certainty, our staff want certainty and our children deserve certainty. They have had enough of the States changing their minds and kicking this important issue down the road for another day.

‘We expect alternative models to be brought forward by amendment, despite our recommendations being entirely in line with previous States decisions. I don’t believe that any of the alternatives that are currently being suggested will fully support the principles and policies we have all signed up to as part of the Policy and Resource Plan. And they will almost certainly cause further delay, disruption and uncertainty. We must avoid that. This should only be about doing what is right for our children and young people. The Committee sincerely hopes that States members will recognise that our proposals are well thought through and evidence-based.’

Full details of the Committee’s recommendations including a series of frequently asked questions is available online at [www.gov.gg/educationfuture](http://www.gov.gg/educationfuture)

The Committee has modelled the financial implications of its proposals which indicate that the three school recommendation will result in lower annual operating costs, saving nearly £3.5m per year once the changes have been fully implemented.

All options will require capital investment in new buildings and facilities. The Committee is proposing to phase its capital works with the new secondary school build, including community sports facilities, plus the remodelling of Les Varendes for post-16 provision in the first phase requiring investment of up to £74m. The second phase of works would include the rebuild of La Mare de Carteret Primary School, the construction of new specialist workshop facilities at Les Ozouets and any possible extension of Les Beaucamps should it be required in future.

The Committee is also planning a series of public information meetings in advance of the States debate which is scheduled for the meeting starting 13<sup>th</sup> December. Dates will be published nearer the time.

**Ends**

## **Notes to Media**

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Members of the media are invited to meet Deputies Le Pelley and Meerveld for embargoed interviews on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November at Sir Charles Frossard House at 11am.

Deputy Dudley-Owen is available for further interviews on Monday.

Please confirm with Nicky Bougourd if you wish to agree a time for an interview with Deputy Dudley-Owen.

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