

FACT SHEET No 2

THE 11+ and FUTURE STRUCTURE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

The only way to ensure that the right school is built that meets our community's long term needs is to ensure that what is built fits into the island's long-term plans for post-16 education and the structure of secondary education in Guernsey including the number of schools, their sizes and location... Education's vision envisaged a States Report on 'a new structure for secondary education' during 2014. The Education Minister informed the States at its June 2014 sitting that work had started on the work leading to the secondary education report. That being the case, the additional delay, if any, should be minimal. T&R media release 27-4-15

- The Education Department is pleased that Treasury and Resources acknowledges this fact. Our proposals for a 600 pupil secondary phase school at La Mare de Carteret fits in with **all options** for the island's long term plans for post-16 and secondary education. This was explained and explored in Section 2.2 of the Department's November States Report which stated:

In addition five scenarios were explored to review the options which the Education Department has considered, should a decision be taken in the future by the States to change the Grammar School from being a selective entry institution. This scenario analysis was undertaken to ensure that the investment could be future proofed to allow flexibility dependent upon any future decision by the States of Deliberation on the issue of selection...

The Education Department has concluded for these reasons that there is a compelling case for the continuing requirement for the 600 pupil places to be located at the five-form entry LMDC High School and for up to 420 places for the two-form entry LMDC Primary School, and that without this provision the basic need for pupil places cannot be met. This approach leaves the Grammar School numbers unaffected and is selection neutral i.e. this investment would be recommended whatever the eventual outcome of the selection debate.

- Both of Treasury's independent reviews concur with the Education Department's view. The 2015 Review Panel report and the earlier review of the Outline Business Case agree with the need for a 600 place secondary school at La Mare, the latter commenting that there was a "compelling business case" for the investment.
- The Education Minister updated the Assembly in June 2014 on progress against all 14 of the vision workstreams (the full statement can be found at www.education.gg/vision). A huge amount has been achieved in a short period of time alongside other priorities such as FTP, the implementation of SAP and other corporate initiatives and 'business as usual' activities.
- As advised in the Minister's update, the Department has already achieved a number of steps towards creating a new structure for secondary education. The establishment of the Guernsey Federation of Secondary Schools (GFSS) has allowed us to harmonise timetables and teaching time across all 4 Guernsey secondary phase schools – this has provided students at Key Stage 4 with a greater breadth of opportunities by allowing them to opt for courses of study being offered by other schools (up to 14 more courses are on offer from Sep 2015). **In just one year**, the GFSS has provided opportunities for succession planning, staff collaboration and sharing good practice plus efficiencies through shared courses, shared posts, restructuring and workforce reform. This success is being built on and must be allowed to continue.
- The Education Board has made it clear that it wanted to address areas of under-performance in schools before seeking any radical change e.g removing selection. **The Bailiwick's GCSE and Level 2 results in 2014 were the best ever achieved.**
- We must be given the opportunity to sustain these improvements in performance.
- Any consideration of the future structure of secondary education and possible removal of selection must also consider funding of the Grant-Aided Colleges (existing agreement runs until academic year 2018/19), how pupils would be admitted to schools if selection was removed, transition from the

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current to any new system, possible staff redundancies, transport requirements, catchment area changes etc. Throughout all this the Department would need to try to ensure that the education of existing students was not adversely affected.

- With regards to moving from four schools to three, the Review Panel stated: 'Given the need for this to be properly and carefully considered, we take no view, therefore, as to how or when it could **or should** be achieved.'
- If the Review Panel believed that the rebuild of La Mare High was conditional on moving from four schools to three why did they only recommend building a 600 pupil school? This would not provide sufficient capacity in a three-school model.
- We always acknowledged that there were some ambitious timescales in the Vision – indeed our pre-school States Report was brought to the Assembly in May 2014 rather than Q4 2013, we are still waiting for the publication of the new Children and Young People's Plan, and as the Minister advised in his update statement, work on a new Education Law has had to be deferred because of other priorities. The Education Board constantly reviews its priorities.

We cannot ignore the fact that we currently have 18% (469 places) overcapacity in our secondary system and logically the right time to decide how best to respond to this is before, not after, a decision on La Mare de Carteret. T&R media release 27-4-15

- We also cannot ignore the fact that the new electronic census data indicates that in approx. 10 years' time (allowing for a similar level of buy out to the grant-aided colleges) we will have more students in the 11-16 age range. We are planning not just for now but also the future.
- No school can operate to capacity as this would require catchment area changes every year or parents being asked to volunteer to change schools plus the possibility that siblings may not be able to attend the same school, transport would be extremely difficult to provide etc.
- Most education authorities in the UK would try to maintain a 10% spare capacity.
- We could not remove the 600 places at the Grammar School without providing an additional 240 places at St Sampson's High and 360 at La Mare de Carteret High creating 2 x 960 pupil schools to enable us to provide sufficient school places for children who are living on the Island now in 10 years' time.
- It is also interesting to note that the Electronic census figures indicate that the number of children of a particular age can vary by around 130 or 22% of the total. The largest age group coming through are those who were aged 2 as at 31st March 2014 (when the figures were collected) with 691 compared to 614 who were aged 3, 660 aged 4 and 651 aged 1. The smallest number of children of a certain age are those aged 11 on March 31st 2014 – 562.
- We can only project pupil numbers after this as they are not born yet.
- The facilities provided in a school building to not differ under a selective or non-selective system. **Our high expectations for pupils are the same regardless of which school they attend.**
- The Education Department has worked through the SCIP process for the last two years setting out its strategic and business cases in line with all T&R's requirements and has been given the green light to proceed at all the gateways. If T&R had these concerns then logically the right time to raise them was right at the beginning of this process and certainly before £1.3m was allocated, with the approval of T&R, to progress the current plans for a 600 pupil school at La Mare de Carteret.

States 'risks making its single most costly strategic error'. Dep Lyndon Trott quoted in Gsy Press 4-5-15

- What Deputy Trott fails to understand is that the rebuild of La Mare as a 600 pupil school is 'selection neutral'. We have embraced the objectives of the States Strategic Plan, followed States processes and sought the approval of the Assembly at every stage of the Education Development Plan Programme 1, delivering evidence-based reports, continually reviewing and adapting each project and providing full costings at all stages as well as adopting the States' Good Governance principles.

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