

Staff Consultation Meeting – Fallside and Portland Schools Relocation to Mavisbank Site

Date: 9th December 2025

At: 4.00pm

Venue: Chapelside Community Centre

Notes/Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Present:

A Henry (AH)	Senior Education and Families Manager (Panel Chair)
M Dolan (MD)	Education and Families Manager (Consultation Lead)
S Stevenson	Inclusion Manager
M McGorry	Project Manager - Learning Environment
C McShane	Cluster Integration and Improvement Lead
Y McBean	Assistant Principal Officer - Inclusion (Notes)
L Macpherson	Project Coordinator – Learning Environment (Notes)
D Lees	Project Coordinator – Learning Environment (Notes)

AH welcomed and introduced the panel, AH provided an in-depth presentation on the proposal, setting out the Council's reasons for the consultation (the presentation can be found on www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/working-communities/consultations/live-consultations) In addition, AH provided an overview of the statutory process and encouraged staff to submit questions and comments they had via ef-fallsideandportland@northlan.gov.uk. AH presented the proposal to staff highlighting the educational benefits derived from both Fallside and Portland schools being co-located on the Mavisbank campus site.

MD presented the new site floorplan and discussed how the Portland and Fallside buildings are unsuitable. MD advised if approved, any works would be age and stage appropriate. MD described the more extensive outdoor space at Mavisbank in comparison to Portland and Fallside. MD passed back to AH who opened the floor for questions.

Q Why is it a joint campus and not a merger?

A The Council is committed to retaining the identity of both schools, with the benefits that can be derived from being on the same site. Reference was made to the presentation, which set out the educational benefits of both schools being co-located.

Q Will the management structure remain the same?

A Yes. It will be a copy and paste of the present structure, the flexibility you currently have will not change as the model remains the same- albeit the overall staffing structure would be depended on the school rolls moving forward.

Q The virtual schools service will be next door, would they have pupils in there and do we anticipate any problems with this?

A We don't envisage any problems with this. There will be individual risk assessments undertaken, in keeping with all schools, and managed by the We Aspire HT and HT of Virtual Schools

Questions arose around staffing commutes and reliant on public transport

A If approved in May the HR process starts and conversations will be held with individual colleagues, there is a mobility clause in your contract to go where the need is however, each case will be considered on its own merit.

Q The Committee meets in May, what is the timeline for moving?

A We can work at risk in terms of design process to ascertain what works will be included in the Summer programme (cosmetic works). The building is a good standard and we would encourage you to put forward suggestions for use of rooms, etc.

Q We currently have 8 classrooms and Mavisbank only have 5, how will this work?

A Mavisbank currently has occupancy for 50 children

There are lots of individual spaces which gives more options and flexibility than we currently have at Portland. This gives opportunities to develop nurture, sensory and bespoke rooms

Q What are the cooking facilities?

A The project team will engage and work with staff on the design of rooms.

S There are also ample parking spaces, drop off and secure external storage. The building is all on the one level and we have previously invested in the outdoors of Mavisbank with the potential for more.

Q Are all staff moving?

A We anticipate everyone will move to the new site. As intimated previously, we would be happy to discuss individual circumstances with staff but would envisage staff will transfer to the new school, if the proposal is approved.

Q What is the best use of the space?

A We will work with you on the best use of the space. The Project Manager will discuss requirements with inclusion; they all have a previous history of engagement on past projects.

Q When will the physical works start?

A Cosmetic works would be included within the six-week summer programme. Due to capacity, we do not want to phase the works, we want it to be 99% of what you require, if the works are phased the building will not be ready to move into.

Q Would we have to move in August?

A If approved we do allow transitions within reason, however, the Portland building has been declared as surplus and is no longer fit for purpose.

Q We had enhanced transitions with Pentland?

A If it benefits the young people then this will be considered. There will be a pupil consultation (pupil voice) in house. We encourage feedback and may have another meeting but will keep you up to date through the HT with further information in the new year

A Why is Education Scotland involved.

Q They are a stakeholder and independent body, and it is a statutory requirement to have them involved.

Q Do Education Scotland always agree with proposals?

A No, not always, we have previously been asked for further information sessions to ensure stakeholders were fully aware of what the proposal meant to them.

Q What will the name of the campus be?

A Both schools will retain their name and identity however the campus itself may have an informal name such as the 'We Aspire campus'. The project team will consult with both schools and discuss with senior officers.

- S** Staff are encouraged to share their views and comments by contacting the mailbox at ef-fallsideandportland@northlan.gov.uk

No further questions arose and AH closed the meeting at 16:54