

Causeway Coast & Glens

Borough Council

To: Leisure and Development Committee

Date: 13th October 2015

Consultation Report

1. Department for Employment and Learning – The Higher Education Big Conversation

On 15 September 2015, Minister Stephen Farry launched the first stage of the 'Higher Education Big Conversation'.

"The Big Conversation is an innovative and experimental approach to engaging with people about an incredibly important issue in Northern Ireland: the sustainability and the future of our higher education system.

It will run from 15th September until the 23rd of October. The process is going to be iterative, exploring a range of weekly themes across two main stages and building up to address some of the most critical issues now facing our higher education system.

The first stage, which will run from the 15th of September to the 2nd of October, is designed to inform – or remind – people about why higher education is so important and how it is delivered and funded. It will also explore the challenges our higher education system is facing and draw on the ways in which higher education is delivered and funded in other parts of the world.

The second stage, running from the 5th to the 23rd of October, will then invite people to have their say about the future of our higher education system".

It is intended that the findings of this wider conversation will shape the Department higher education bid for the next Comprehensive Spending review period in Northern Ireland and inform future policy decisions.

The department is keen to ensure that as many people as possible have the opportunity to help shape the future of higher education in Northern Ireland and partake in this innovative approach.

Additional information can be found through the following link:

www.delni.gov.uk/index/publications/minister-statements/hebigconversation.htm

or by contacting;

Laura Irvine (Acting) Head of Higher Education Future Policy
Department for Employment and Learning
Adelaide House
39-49 Adelaide Street
BELFAST BT2 8FD