

Appendix 2: Main Themes and responses

- 1. Comment: Increase in travel time and distance and a decrease in active travel options.** Of the comments received, 206 people referred to travel, with the most relating to an increase in travel time and distance (115), increase in traffic (54) and a decrease in active travel options (38). Many respondents were concerned about the impact on their children as they live close to The Henry Cort Community College and are currently able to walk to school. Should options 2 or 3 proceed, those respondents said they/their children would have to travel to school by motor vehicle, to North Whiteley, Fareham Academy, or Cams Hill School. Some concerns were raised about safety as a result. There were also comments received which highlighted an improved, shorter journey to school for those living on the Whiteley estate (6). Response:

Response: As outlined in the [North Whiteley New Secondary School report](#), School Transport are already transporting Whiteley children to local schools, including The Henry Cort Community College. Once the new secondary school opens the broad impact is likely to be a reduction in transport costs. Currently 8 single decker buses are going from Whiteley to The Henry Cort Community College on a twice daily basis at a total annual cost of £353,069.

Should option 3 be progressed and The Henry Cort Community College relocates to Whiteley, which is The County Council's preferred option, there would be further implications for School Transport in the short term with potential for a split site arrangement as well as some existing The Henry Cort Community College pupils needing to be transported to Whiteley.

In the longer term, alongside a catchment area change, demand for the relocated The Henry Cort Community College would become more locally generated, so transport costs should be significantly reduced. There would, however, be an increase in travel time to the catchment school for some families who live close to The Henry Cort Community College and further from the alternative catchment schools proposed of Fareham Academy and Cams Hill School. School transport will be available to anyone who qualifies, namely those without a safe walking route to school of under three miles walking distance.

- 2. Comment: Local schools for local children.** 205 respondents mentioned community impact, with 165 making comments relating to the need for local schools for local children. Respondents felt the area around the school site must continue to have its own school, just as Whiteley should have its own school as well.

Response: The County Council uses best endeavours to provide for local schools for local children. The relocation of The Henry Cort College to North Whiteley, is to provide school places in the area where the population is growing and reduce the travel times for children. The County Council remains concerned that this would in turn reduce the number of children seeking a place at The Henry Cort Community College if it remained in its current location. A school needs sufficient long-term demand because of the nature of

per pupil funding, in order to ensure there is a strong educational offer along with maintaining a balanced budget.

- 3. Comment: Community impact and the loss of facilities.** 27 people were concerned about the loss of the community hub should The Henry Cort Community College close or relocated, with a significant number of clubs and organisations making use of the school facilities. 8 people commented that they thought it was positive that the new secondary school in Whiteley would provide the area with a new community hub.

Response: Hampshire County Council will engage fully with the current community users if the recommendation to relocate The Henry Cort Community College is taken. The future use of The Henry Cort Community College site will be the subject of a separate and future consultation in the event the decision to relocate the college is taken by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services in February 2025.

- 4. Comment: Local development and future increase in population.** Need to plan for the future. 226 respondents referred to local development in their comments, with 153 mentioning the increase in housing in Whiteley and Fareham, and 73 people mentioning Welborne specifically. Comments centred on the need to plan for the future to ensure there are sufficient secondary places available to meet any increase in demand in line with new housing. Many respondents commented that The Henry Cort Community College is the closest secondary school to the Welborne major development area. 33 respondents also queried whether The Henry Cort Community College site could be sold if it is either closed or relocated, leading to additional housing as loss of the community hub (see above).

Response: As outlined in Paragraph 24, the data indicates that there will be sufficient secondary places available in Fareham. This includes the anticipated student yield from Welborne as the development builds out, in advance of the potential secondary school being provided as part of the development.

- 5. Comment: Consistency of education and concerns about outcomes if there is disruption.** 222 respondents referred to education, with 72 people emphasising the need for consistency in education. 65 people raised concerns about a potentially negative impact on students' exams and educational outcomes.

Response: The local authority is working closely with The Henry Cort Community College in order that the needs of all pupils are supported. This focus and required accountability on leaders including the governing body, by the local authority will not be affected by the decision around the school's relocation, and the improvements to the provision will continue to be driven throughout the period. The local authority, DfE and Ofsted expects all school to strive for improved outcomes regardless of any building arrangements. If The Henry Cort Community College is relocated, school leaders will work with the local authority to consider the best arrangements for those Years 10

and 11 students who will have embarked on their GCSE courses. This may require the school to establish some split site arrangements or draw all pupils into the new site. Any decision will be made close to the time and following discussion with students and their parents/carers.

- 6. Comment: Retention of good teachers.** 44 people responded to say that retention of good teachers is vital. Concerns were raised about teachers not choosing to stay at The Henry Cort Community College due to uncertainty surrounding its future. Conversely, some respondents felt that option 3, a relocation of The Henry Cort Community College would support the retention of good teachers.

Response: The governing body has appointed a new headteacher and the experienced senior leadership team is currently stable. All teachers are permitted to progress their careers through applying to new positions in other schools and recruitment and retention is a current challenge in many schools. The local authority expects that relocation of the school would provide considerable opportunities for the existing staff to contribute to shape the future of the school on a new site and would expect it to be an attractive option in recruiting any further staff needed. In this respect relocation provides greater staff security and certainty.

- 7. Comment: If option 1 progresses and The Henry Cort Community College remains open, there would be less pressure for places and potentially smaller class sizes. If either option 2 or 3 progresses, there will be an increase in pressure on the remaining schools.** 95 respondents commented that depending which option proceeds there would be either an increase or decrease in the pressure on local schools. A majority of these comments stated that if The Henry Cort Community College remains where it is there would be a positive outcome in terms of more choice for parents and potentially improved educational outcomes due to smaller class sizes. Conversely, many respondents felt that should The Henry Cort Community College close or relocate that it would result in an increase in pressure for places at Fareham College and Cams Hill School.

Response: school funding is related to pupils on roll which in turn determines the number of staff appointed. Fewer pupils in a school does not equate to smaller class sizes and conversely could result in potentially large classes in order that the school remains financially viable. Whilst class sizes are generally standard across both large and small schools, smaller schools have fewer curriculum and extracurricular options as they are driven by staffing capacity and numbers of pupils opting to participate, and pastoral arrangements may be less due to the fewer staff employed. Operating with smaller classes is often unaffordable.

- 8. Comment: Increase in cost.** 40 respondents raised concerns about an increase in travel costs for families, and 16 raised concerns about an increase in travel costs for Hampshire County Council, should either option 2 or 3 proceed.

Response: If Option 3 is adopted then the County Council predicts a net reduction in School Transport costs of approximately £400,00 per annum. Further detail is available in Appendix 4.

- 9. Comment: Modernisation and improvement of The Henry Cort Community College.** 31 respondents referred to the need for improvements to The Henry Cort Community College, including 19 who suggested the school buildings need investment and modernisation.

Response: The majority of the funding to build the new school comes from Developer Contributions, collected to mitigate the education requirement on the development. Some funding secured from the Department for Education (Basic Need) is also being utilised to build the school to the 6fe size.

- 10. Comment: Reputation of The Henry Cort Community College.** 51 respondents commented on the reputation of The Henry Cort Community College. 22 comments were made about the school's Requires Improvement (RI) Ofsted judgement, 22 comments were made about the poor reputation of the school, and 13 comments were made about the good reputation of the school.

Response: the authority expects The Henry Cort Community College to be judged to be as good by Ofsted in the autumn term 2025 reflecting the current good progress that is being made by leaders. The school is being supported by the local authority with subject support, training and leadership development and improvements are being seen.

The governing body has appointed a new headteacher already in post and the senior leadership team is stable.

In summer 2023, after the Ofsted inspection judgement, the school increased its attainment and progress outcomes for the Year 11 and placing the school's progress in line with the district average. Early indications of 2024 outcomes indicate that the school's performance remains similar to that of 2023 with some strengthening for those pupils performing at the higher levels.

- 11. Comment: Comments on the consultation process:**

- Suggestion that social and economic community factors should have been made a part of the consultation package and should be a part of the decision-making process.
- Suggestion that a decision to sell the land that The Henry Cort Community College is sited on has already been made and that it would lead to additional house building. Comments on a lack to reference to the Welborne development. One respondent suggested that there should have been clearer explanation of the benefits and drawback of each option.
- Suggestion that the consultation should have been launched before parents had to apply for places for Year 7 2024.
- Comment that the consultation focused too heavily on the financial aspects which they suggested is not the focus for parents.

Response: The LA has commenced this consultation in good time ahead of the opening of the new school, to ensure that the local admission arrangements for September 2027 can be consulted on and determined over the autumn of 2025 in line with School Admission Code requirements.

12. Comment: Other suggestions made include:

For 'another approach' specify in the box below: (For 'other' please describe in the box below:)

- Rebuild The Henry Cort Community College on its present site as a 900 place school.
- Keep the school where it is
- One of the sites to be specialised for young people with neurodiversity etc, specialising
- Update Henry Cort desperately and keep it where it is
- Option 3, but increase funding for Cams and Fareham Academy to accommodate the increase in pupils.
- Keep Henry Cort operational and financially viable. Ie make HC a smaller school. This is not option1
- Where does the proposed Welbourne secondary school fit into either of the equations?
- move all the years too whitely
- Stay as is and put the funding into better equipment/services at the schools we have
- Turn Henry Court into a school specialising in kids with SEN requirements? Plus the new school.
- Henry cort is under requires improvement. How to improve Henry court should be looked a
- Turn Henry Cort into a specialist school for those with additional needs
- Henry cort convert to a-levels college for fareham
- Option 3, but use the current Henry Cort site for multiple sen schools offering much needed spaces
- Keep Henry Cort open and continue Whiteleybpupils to.continue to attend . Also let Welborne pupils

Response: a combined response from the CEO and Headteacher of Cams Hill School and the headteacher of Fareham Academy and an email from the Senior Site Manager at The Henry Cort Community College can be found in full at Appendix 3 comment 8.

The CEO and headteacher of Cams Hill School and the headteacher of Fareham Academy said in their response that they are supportive in principle of a proposed change in their catchment areas to incorporate The Henry Cort Community College Fareham catchment. However, both schools expressed a preference for there to be a clear split between them, rather than a shared catchment area.

The Welbourne development will in the future have its own secondary school, built in line with forecast demand, but in the meantime, there is sufficient capacity for the children of secondary school age that live on the Welbourne development at the new Whiteley Secondary School.

A range of other themes raised on the remaining written responses include...

- Community
- Travel distance, environmental impact, safety, good experience at the school
- Concern about disruption to GCSEs should HC close and couldn't remain with peers.
- Concern about the retention of teaching staff