

Appendix 4 – School Transport Implications

1. The School Transport Service 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 significant reduction in transport costs. Currently, four large buses and several smaller vehicles are going from Whiteley to The Henry Cort Community College on a twice daily basis at a total annual cost of £353,069.
2. As the population living in Whiteley grows, the volume of children travelling from Whiteley to The Henry Cort Community College will increase. The total annual cost for School Transport will peak in 2026/27 and is likely to be approximately £500,000.
3. Should option 3 (the County Council's preferred option) be progressed and The Henry Cort Community College relocates to Whiteley, there would be further implications for School Transport in the short term. There is the potential for a split site arrangement as well as some existing pupils attending The Henry Cort Community College 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.
4. Once the new school site opens for the 2027/28 academic year, children living in the proposed catchment area in Whiteley will be within the statutory walking distance and will not qualify for School Transport. This cohort will only be year 7 in 2027/28.
5. For School Transport purposes, the change of catchment areas will create four further cohorts.
6. Those would be attending The Henry Cort Community College in years 8 and 9 will move to the new The Henry Cort Community College site in Whiteley. Some currently live in Whiteley and the rest live in the area surrounding The Henry Cort Community College site. Those living in Whiteley currently receive School Transport but will not need it to the new site. Those living close to the old site do not currently receive School Transport will need it to the new site. These two changes will tend to balance each other.
7. Those already attending The Henry Cort Community College and just about to start years 10 and 11. Depending on the decision of the school's governing body these children will either continue to attend the current The Henry Cort Community College site as before or move with the year 8 and 9 pupils to the new site when it opens. If it is the former, there will be minimal impact on School Transport costs as the same transport arrangements stay in place as before. For the latter the same logic applies as for the year 8 & 9 group in 14.3 above; the costs tend to balance out and there will not be a large increase or decrease.

8. Those living in the section of the previous The Henry Cort Community College catchment area that are now in the catchment for Cams Hill School. Most of the housing in the area moving from the catchment of The Henry Cort Community College to that of Cams Hill School is within three miles, the statutory walking distance for School Transport, and so will not be eligible. Assuming 20% will still qualify for school transport the cost is likely to be between £45,000 and £60,000 per year.
9. Those living in the section of the previous The Henry Cort Community College catchment area that are now in catchment for Fareham Academy. Although a large part of the area changing catchment areas from The Henry Cort Community College to Fareham Academy is more than three miles walking distance, these areas are sparsely populated. The village of Titchfield is less than three miles from Fareham Academy. The annual costs are difficult to estimate but are unlikely to exceed £40,000.
10. In summary, School Transport costs are approximately £350,000 from Whiteley to the current The Henry Cort Community College site currently. This is forecast to increase by September 2027 to £500,000 over the next three years, School Transport costs for children living in Whiteley reduce to close to zero. Alongside this there will be additional School Transport costs for children living in areas that change to become in the catchment of Cams Hill School and Fareham Academy. Estimating the cost for these children is less precise but is unlikely to exceed £100,000 per annum. Therefore, the change realises a net reduction in School Transport costs of approximately £400,00 per annum.