

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL report to Boarhunt Parish Council – 4th December 2024



Proposed Relocation of The Henry Cort Community College

Hampshire County Council is to open a formal public consultation on Friday, 10th January 2025 seeking views on the proposed relocation of The Henry Cort Community College in Fareham, to a new site in North Whiteley from September 2027. The consultation will be published on Hampshire County Council's website and will run until Friday, 14 February 2025. No final decision to be taken until June 2025, following local elections.

The proposal to relocate the school comes as forecasts show that the ongoing development of the Whiteley area will result in demand for between 900 and 1,200 secondary school places. A new secondary school in North Whiteley is planned to meet the predicted need for school places across the whole of the Whiteley area, once the new development is complete.



While clearly needed to meet future demand, the planned new school in North Whiteley would also have a significant impact on The Henry Cort Community College in Fareham, which currently takes pupils from across the Whiteley area.

As more families in Whiteley are anticipated to move their children to the new school in North Whiteley from September 2027, it is expected that Henry Cort would see a corresponding reduction in its pupil numbers, and consequently in its funding from Government, which is allocated on a per-pupil basis. This in turn would lead to a reduced curriculum, staffing recruitment and retention difficulties, an impact on children's educational outcomes, significant financial challenges - and ultimately, an untenable future.

The proposal to relocate Henry Cort to the new site in North Whiteley is considered the most viable option to protect its future while ensuring sufficient school places and a good quality of education and stability for all children across Whiteley and Fareham. If finally agreed, this would not mean that Henry Cort would close but that the school, including its staff and children, would be moved to the new site.

Free Loans

Young musicians across Hampshire are set to benefit from the loan of 1,000 used string instruments by Hampshire Music Service (HMS), the County Council's music education provider and lead organisation for the Hampshire Music Education Hub.

These instruments include a wide range of sizes including child-sized and full-sized violins, violas, cellos, and double basses.

HMS has opened applications for **free long-term loans** of the instruments, following the award of a £600,000 Arts Council capital grant. This will enable HMS to purchase new instruments and resources including specialist adaptive and adaptable instruments for special needs provision for use in schools throughout Hampshire.



Schools, organisations and **individuals** interested in applying for these instruments can do so by visiting Hampshire Music Service Stringed Instrument Opportunity - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/>

Education Catering Service

Hampshire County Council is to recommend sourcing school meals from other providers, rather than directly providing meals as it currently does via its in-house Education Catering Service. This arrangement would see the local authority purchase and manage the supply of meals from providers on behalf of schools and nurseries who subscribe to this service and would potentially support schools and families to pay a lower price for school meals - particularly important given the ongoing cost-of-living pressures. If the recommendation is approved, it is expected that the move to the new arrangement will take place by the end of March 2026.

School meals will continue to be available to all children across Hampshire, including those eligible for free school meals.

While local authorities are ultimately responsible for ensuring free school meals are provided to eligible children, they are not legally required to run their own catering services to fulfil this.

Urgent call for Landlords and Homeowners

We urgently need landlords with vacant properties, or homeowners with spare rooms, to rent to Ukrainians. Comprehensive support is available for landlords (conditions apply), while homeowners can earn up to £7,500 rent annually tax-free. For further information visit: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/ukraine/homes-for-ukraine>

Help with the Cost of Living

The ongoing struggle with the cost of living poses a significant challenge for many Hampshire residents who are having to make difficult choices regarding their household finances.

Help and support is available from a number of services. This includes warm spaces in libraries to hot school meals and expert advice on reducing heating bills. I encourage everyone in Hampshire to take full advantage of these resources. Visit - <https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/costofliving>

Hampshire Facts

The County Council –

- serves more than 1.4 million residents in Hampshire
- our schools teach 135,000 pupils.
- we managed a £2.9 billion gross budget for 2024/25
- over half a billion pounds has been removed from the County Council’s budget since 2008, due to ongoing reductions in central Government funding, increasing costs and a steadily rising demand for our vital services such as social care for vulnerable children and adults.
- our Band D council tax is the second lowest in England

Did you Know?

Hampshire County Council offer and host many varied activities for all ages, throughout the year, and at Christmas time. From organised country walks in the Queen Elizabeth Forest, to Christmas Card painting workshops; a magical woodland bear adventure; Christmas Wreath making; Christmas on the Farm, etc. For details visit: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/events?keywords=&page=2>

Community Grants



Don't forget that grant applications for a Councillor grant close at the end of January. These grants are intended to help small, local, community groups eg lunch clubs, scouts, community centres, village associations, school PTAs, local Church, etc. Grants allocated are fairly small and MUST meet the published criteria. See –

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/county-councillor>.

Also, you must discuss with your County Councillor BEFORE application is made. All applications must be made online. *I look forward to hearing from you!*

and finally, may I wish everyone



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