

March
2023

Public consultation

The proposed merger between
City College Southampton,
Eastleigh College and
Fareham College





Your views are important

City College Southampton, Eastleigh College and Fareham College are proposing to merge, creating one financially strong, responsive and ambitious Further Education (FE) organisation which will be best placed to serve the education and training needs of Southampton and the surrounding areas.

The synergy of these complementary colleges will enhance the range of provision and the quality of courses throughout the region by forming a network of campuses with centres of excellence, which will increase the supply of skills to the local economy.

This document outlines the merger proposition and the foreseen benefits to students, staff, employers, and the wider communities.

The Colleges welcome all views on the proposal and invite you to share your feedback as part of the public consultation – please see page 18. All responses will be carefully considered and inform the final proposal.



Timeline

- 29 March 2023**
Public consultation begins
- 2 May 2023**
Public consultation closes
- 29 June 2023**
Consultation outcome published
- 1 August 2023**
Proposed merger date



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Chairs' foreword

City College Southampton, Eastleigh College and Fareham College are committed to serving the education and training needs of the people of Hampshire and its businesses. Creating a prosperous future for our young people, communities and stakeholders is a joint priority. On behalf of the Colleges' governing boards, we welcome the opportunity to work together to better meet — and exceed — our shared goals.

This proposed merger will create a financially stronger organisation with strengthened leadership and governance, whilst still retaining and enhancing our distinctive local brands and curriculum specialisms.

By combining our resources and expertise and sharing best practice, we can unite our existing centres of excellence and create seamless

pathways into higher levels of study and work, supporting our region's economy to grow and succeed.

We believe that our plans will attract additional inward investment, enabling us to further develop our curriculum offer — ensuring we collectively deliver the highest quality training and courses, tailored to employer and student needs — and enhance our existing resources and facilities. Through the facilitation of additional skills and career development and increased progression opportunities, we will also be able to increase our investment in our most valued asset — our staff.

We are keen to hear your views on our ambitious vision for the future of our three colleges and invite you to take part in the consultation.



Geraint Davies
Chair of Governors
City College Southampton



Jonathan Sendell
Chair of Governors
Eastleigh College



Natalie Wigman
Chair Elect
Eastleigh College



Kevin Briscoe
Chair of Governors
Fareham College

Where the colleges are



Eastleigh College

Chestnut Avenue
Eastleigh, SO50 5FS



City College Southampton



Main Campus
St Mary Street
Southampton, SO14 1AR

Fareham College



Bishopsfield Road Campus
Bishopsfield Road
Fareham, PO14 1NH



Marine Skills Centre
Hazel Road, Woolston
Southampton, SO19 7GA



CETC Campus
Meteor Way, Broom Way
Lee-on-the-Solent, PO13 9FU



CEMAST Campus
Meteor Way, Broom Way
Lee-on-the-Solent, PO13 9FU

Who we are



City College Southampton

City College Southampton is a small but well-established General Further Education (GFE) college in Hampshire, providing career-led courses, apprenticeships and education for young people, adults and businesses. It has been serving the city of Southampton for over 70 years and currently has around 3,000 students and apprentices, with a turnover of £15 million in 2021/22.

City College's main campus is located close to Southampton's city centre, in St Marys. It also has a small specialist Marine Skills Centre a 15-minute walk away in Woolston. Facilities include a professional theatre, commercial restaurant, hair and beauty salons, media and photography studios, and specialist construction, engineering and motor vehicle workshops. Students benefit from learning in real-life working environments using advanced industry-standard equipment and being taught by industry professionals who have a wealth of up-to-date knowledge and experience.

The College's curriculum offer is designed to meet the needs and interests of young people, the local community and employers. It offers a wide range of full-time study programmes, Access to Higher Education (HE), part-time FE and HE provision, from Entry Level to Level 5, and delivers apprenticeship standards at Intermediate and Advanced levels. Courses focus on providing the skills, knowledge and behaviours learners need to successfully progress to higher levels of study, or to start or progress in their chosen career.



City College is the biggest college for teaching English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) in the Solent region, providing specialist English classes for hundreds of 16-18-year-olds and adults every year. The College also teaches basic skills and foundation learning qualifications that enable young people and adults to improve their literacy, language and numeracy skills.



The student cohort is more diverse than is average for a GFE college and other local colleges, with many students and apprentices coming from areas of the city with higher-than-average levels of deprivation. The College prides itself on its inclusivity, recognising that for some learners, young people and adults, progression into work and on to higher education is not straightforward.



Who we are

Eastleigh College

Eastleigh College (EC) is a leading technical and professional college which teaches over 5,700 students from across the country each year. It offers a wide range of programmes to provide school leavers, apprentices and adult learners at all educational stages with the skills and knowledge needed for a highly rewarding future. Through its extensive industry partnerships across the Solent, Hampshire and 'South Central' region, the College also supports more than 1,000 businesses with their ongoing training, updating, certification and licensing needs.

To ensure a varied and competitive educational offer for the region, the College collaborates with local GFE and sixth form colleges on various projects. It also has excellent partnerships with local HE institutions including its partner, the University of Portsmouth, which validates its HE courses, and Solent University with whom it works very closely on adult skills and the recently launched South Coast Institute of Technology (IoT). The creation of an Employer Board comprising professionals from a rich variety of industries provides insights into employers' needs and skills shortages, which inform curriculum planning.



The College's education, training and apprenticeship programmes are delivered by highly qualified sector specialists, supported by learner and business support colleagues who are experts in their field. The campus provides the same industry-standard learning environment that learners can expect to find in the workplace.

To meet local, regional and national employment needs, the College is constantly reviewing its current curriculum offer. In 2021/22, it launched EC Online, where adult learners complete their learning and assessment on a virtual platform and then went on to offer fully online apprenticeships in the same year. It is currently the only College in the South East offering a Green Skills Bootcamp in Heat Pumps with further Skills Bootcamps in development. It recently launched a number of T Levels to expand on its existing 16-19-year-old programmes and as a core IoT partner, the College can offer higher-level qualifications in digital and logistics.



Supported by external funding and investment from such initiatives as the Department for Education's (DfE) Strategic Development Fund and the IoT, the College continues to invest in its facilities, curriculum strengths and staff. This has enabled the building of new classrooms, the conversion of unused space into new teaching and learning facilities, and the procurement of new teaching equipment such as electric vehicles and engineering lathes, as well as the upskilling of delivery colleagues.



By upholding the highest of standards in relation to teaching and training, assessment and overall achievement of learners, the College has been successful in achieving numerous external awards and recognition for both staff and learners from employers, WorldSkills and other skills competitions and awarding organisations.

Who we are

Fareham College

The College teaches over 3,200 students each year and offers a diverse range of courses. These include T Levels, traineeships, apprenticeships, HE, and part-time and professional courses to prepare students for employment in their chosen career path or progress to university or onto an apprenticeship. Student employability is a key focus, so the College works closely with employers to ensure its provision meets the workforce needs of the future.

Fareham College, judged 'outstanding' by Ofsted, offers an exceptional learning environment and is a centre of excellence for post-16 teaching and learning, providing the very best professional and technical training. Teaching is delivered at three state-of-the-art campuses — Bishopsfield Road, CEMAST and CETC — with over £40 million of campus development completed over recent years.

In September 2022, the Bishopsfield Road Campus opened its state-of-the-art energy hub. The £1.4 million investment included the procurement of a range of integrated technology, comprising electric and hybrid charging points, ground and air source heat pumps, photovoltaic panels and technology for smart homes. The facilities, supported by the College's employer network, train students for the future of construction and engineering by delivering the skills needed for exciting and varied career routes.



Working alongside four other colleges and two universities, Fareham College is the lead college for the South Coast IoT. The development aims to meet the Solent region's future workforce needs across maritime, engineering and digital technologies, connecting learners across the educational partners through innovative learning opportunities and an employer-led curriculum. Part of the initiative includes further investment for the CEMAST Campus in the form of an extension which is scheduled for completion in summer 2023, with students welcomed to the facilities from September 2023.



The College was among a few elite providers in the South of England chosen to pioneer the new T Level qualification, launching two study programmes in September 2020. Since then, its provision has expanded to 28 pathways, including: art, design and fashion; early years and education; engineering and manufacturing; hairdressing; and hospitality and catering.





Why should the colleges merge?



Following the DfE recommendation in May 2022, City College Southampton, Eastleigh College and Fareham College actively and positively investigated the opportunities afforded by closer integration of the three corporations. The governing boards believe a merger is in the best interests of students, staff, employers and wider stakeholders with consideration of the following key benefits:

A financially stronger, more sustainable, and more resilient group

Increased opportunities and greater capacity to respond and adapt to changing industry and student needs and government funding priorities

The creation of strong local offers for each college, which respond to local needs

Greater opportunities for staff to develop and progress within a larger college group
Increased access to high-quality provision for learners without the need to travel significant distances

The retention and celebration of unique brand identities and college names

An enhanced curriculum offer for students and apprentices across all three colleges, with greater learning opportunities and more progression routes

Closer working with local employers and organisations to support curriculum development and student employability

Improved quality of provision across the three existing colleges

A collaborative response to the labour skills gap and employers' training needs to support the growth of the local economy

Increased access to high-quality provision for learners without the need to travel significant distances

A strengthened position to influence local and national government policy

About the merger

To achieve the merger, the corporations of City College Southampton and Eastleigh College will dissolve with students, staff and facilities transferring to the newly merged college. The corporation of Fareham College will be renamed to reflect the newly formed group.

The names and brand identities of the three existing colleges and their campuses will remain unchanged.

It is proposed that the newly merged corporation, to which the three colleges will belong, is called South Hampshire College Group. This name would come into effect on 01 August 2023, the proposed date of merger.



Existing students will continue to study at their current campus to complete their course delivery.

The merged group will have a turnover of around £42 million and employ over 800 staff. Annually, the group would be responsible for the education and training of more than 3,600 students aged 16-19, over 1,200 apprentices, and over 5,000 adults. Additionally, the group will work with a breadth of employers and other key stakeholders across the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership region and beyond.



Benefits of the merger

For students and apprentices

A broader course offer across the group, increasing choice and the availability of different delivery modes

Higher quality provision through the group's centres of excellence

Greater access to high-quality resources and support staff

Further development and maintenance of facilities through a sustainable property strategy

More opportunities for meaningful work experience through a centralised network of employers and businesses

Access to an expanded careers and course advice service to support lifelong learning

Increased progression opportunities, minimising the need to travel

For students on 16-19 study programmes, access to a more extensive programme of enrichment activities



For staff

The sharing of best practice across a larger group

Increased investment in teaching and learning facilities and resources

New opportunities to develop skills and experience in a broader curriculum offer

An enhanced skills and careers development programme utilising the expertise within the existing colleges

A wider peer support network

More progression opportunities within a larger organisation

A more financially stable and sustainable employer

Strengthened leadership and governance

An employer which is better placed to respond and adapt to external influences and opportunities

For businesses and employers

A centralised contact for education and training needs

Increased college capacity to respond to changing training needs and skills gaps

More work-ready young people and graduates with the skills required by local employers

Access to a larger cohort of future employees

A wider pool of applicants for work experience and industry placements

An enhanced ability to influence the region's curriculum offer

Access to a wider range of specialised facilities for training or operational needs



For the community and other stakeholders

More learning opportunities and greater access to college facilities across the region

The development of existing partnerships with local universities to enhance progression pathways into HE across the new group

Continued collaboration through the South Coast IoT with other GFE and sixth form colleges

A strengthened capacity to bid for new initiatives and funding opportunities



Southampton City College

Statutory Notice — Further and Higher Education Act 1992

Notice is hereby given by Southampton City College Corporation (trading as City College Southampton; St Mary Street, Southampton, SO14 1AR), in accordance with the Further Education Corporations (Publication of Proposals) (England) Regulations 2012, of the proposal for the transfer of the property, rights and liabilities to the Corporation of Fareham College (Bishopsfield Road, Fareham, PO14 1NH) and the subsequent dissolution of Southampton City College Corporation.

The Corporation of Fareham College is separately proposing to the Secretary of State a change of name for the Corporation to be effective from 1 August 2023. The proposed name of the merged college Corporation is South Hampshire College Group.

The proposed merger follows a DfE recommendation in May 2022 for the corporations of Southampton City College, Eastleigh College and Fareham College to investigate the opportunities afforded by closer integration.

The date proposed for the dissolution of the Corporation is 1 August 2023.

All students at City College Southampton who have not yet completed their course of study by the date of the proposed dissolution will continue their education in the merged college on the same campus where they studied immediately prior to the dissolution of Southampton City College Corporation. This will affect approximately 3,000 students: 1,190 16-18-year-olds (FE learners), 319 apprentices, 122 university-level learners (HE) and 1,259 adults (part-time and full-time).

A copy of the consultation document on this proposal is available at www.southampton-city.ac.uk/merger.

The consultation period runs from 29 March to 2 May 2023.

All responses and representations must be received by the closing date through:

- completing the online response form at www.southampton-city.ac.uk/merger
- or email to merger@southampton-city.ac.uk

A summary of the feedback from the dissolution notice consultation and the outcome will be published on 29 June 2023 on the City College Southampton, Eastleigh College and Fareham College websites.

Eastleigh College

Statutory Notice — Further and Higher Education Act 1992

Notice is hereby given by the Corporation of Eastleigh College (Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh, SO50 5FS), in accordance with the Further Education Corporations (Publication of Proposals) (England) Regulations 2012, of the proposal for the transfer of the property, rights and liabilities to the Corporation of Fareham College (Bishopsfield Road, Fareham, PO14 1NH) and the subsequent dissolution of the Corporation of Eastleigh College.

The Corporation of Fareham College is separately proposing to the Secretary of State a change of name for the Corporation to be effective from 1 August 2023. The proposed name of the merged college Corporation is South Hampshire College Group.

The proposed merger follows a DfE recommendation in May 2022 for the corporations of City College Southampton, Eastleigh College and Fareham College to investigate the opportunities afforded by closer integration.

The date proposed for the dissolution of the Corporation is 1 August 2023.

All students at Eastleigh College who have not yet completed their course of study by the date of the proposed dissolution will continue their education in the merged college on the same campus where they studied immediately prior to the dissolution of the Corporation of Eastleigh College. This will affect approximately 5,770 students: 1,141 16-19-year-olds (FE learners), 786 apprentices, 148 university-level learners (HE) and 3,695 adults (part-time and full-time).

A copy of the consultation document on this proposal is available at www.eastleigh.ac.uk/merger.

The consultation period runs from 29 March to 2 May 2023.

All responses and representations must be received by the closing date through:

- completing the online response form at www.eastleigh.ac.uk/merger
- or email to merger@eastleigh.ac.uk

A summary of the feedback from the dissolution notice consultation and the outcome will be published on 29 June 2023 on the City College Southampton, Eastleigh College and Fareham College websites.

Your views

The governing boards invite you to share your views on the presented merger proposal and/or the proposed name change.

The questions on page 19 can be answered using our online feedback form at:

- www.southampton-city.ac.uk/merger
- www.eastleigh.ac.uk/merger
- www.fareham.ac.uk/merger

You may also email your responses to merger@fareham.ac.uk.

All responses must be received by Tuesday 2 May 2023 to be considered as part of the consultation process.



Consultation questions

Deadline: Tuesday
2 May 2023

Your name _____ Your organisation (if applicable) _____ Postcode _____

Please select the category(ies) which best describe(s) you:

- City College Southampton student
- Eastleigh College student
- Fareham College student
- Prospective student or parent/carer/guardian
- City College Southampton staff
- Eastleigh College staff
- Fareham College staff
- Trade Union representative
- Parent/Carer/Guardian
- School
- Other FE institution
- HE institution
- Private training provider
- Employer / Local business
- Local government
- Government body
- Other

1. Do you support the proposed merger?

Yes | No | Unsure

2. Do you have any ideas or suggestions for how the group can improve its engagement with the community?

3. If you are an employer, what training needs would you wish the merged college to address?

4. Your comments on the proposed corporation name, South Hampshire College Group.

Email your responses to merger@fareham.ac.uk or visit one of the College's websites (see page 18) to complete the online form.

Privacy statement

Any personal information you provide to City College Southampton, Eastleigh College and Fareham College as part of the consultation process will only be used for the purposes of acknowledging your participation and/or responding to any queries you submit at your request. Personal information will not be published as part of the outcome of the consultation; only anonymous comments and responses will be made public.

Any personal information you provide will be kept for 6 months and then destroyed in a secure manner.

You retain the following rights:

- the right to access your personal information, using the College's Subject Access Request process.
- the right to have inaccurate personal information changed.
- the right to restrict the processing of your personal information.
- the right to object to the processing of your personal information.
- the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office in relation to how City College Southampton, Eastleigh College and Fareham College have processed your data. You can do this at <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint>

If you have any questions about the ways in which we use your personal information, please contact the relevant Data Protection Officer:



DPO@southampton-city.ac.uk

southampton-city.ac.uk/merger



DP@fareham.ac.uk

fareham.ac.uk/merger



DPO@eastleigh.ac.uk

eastleigh.ac.uk/merger