

# Consultation on the future of **Hameldon Community College**

**September/October 2017**

Hameldon Community College, Burnley, BB11 5BT

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolorganisationreviews](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolorganisationreviews)



## Introduction

**Lancashire County Council, and the governors of Hameldon Community College, have agreed to hold a public consultation on the future of the school, including its proposed closure.**

This was decided at a meeting of the County Council's Cabinet held on Thursday 10 August 2017.

There are many reasons why this consultation was believed to be in the best interests of the school and its pupils. More detail about each of the reasons will be outlined in the document, but I'll summarise them here.

Despite considerable efforts over many years to support the school, it has still faced significant challenges. The number of pupils has reduced each year and there are now fewer than 300 pupils in a school built for 750. The school has faced problems in raising attainment, falling significantly below the required minimum standards.

The school's budget has also reduced because it has fewer pupils, which in turn has caused staffing problems, reduced subject options and lowered pupil results.

Significant additional support has been provided by Lancashire County Council since 2008, but despite this the school has not been able to maintain any improvements that have been made at various times.

Lancashire County Council has a statutory duty to provide high-quality school places for all of our children. Duty aside, we are absolutely committed to providing all our pupils with the education they deserve. Because of this commitment, we have to look very closely at all of our options for those pupils who are currently attending, or are thinking of attending Hameldon Community College in the future, to make sure that they receive the best possible education.

The formal consultation period will run from 11 September 2017 until 20 October 2017.

During this period we will seek the views of parents and carers, pupils, staff, governors and other interested parties on how we can provide the best possible education for the young people in this area. We'll make sure that you receive the information you need to make up your mind on what you think the future of the school should be, including the measures we would put in place to ensure that our existing pupils enjoy a high-quality education.

An event will also be held at the school as part of the consultation. I hope that you will take the opportunity to attend and ask us any questions you have about the future of the school.

No decisions have yet been taken. Feedback from the consultation will be taken to Lancashire County Council's Cabinet meeting in December, and will be considered there.

I urge you to let us have your views. The views you share with us about any possible alternative options for the school will be used to shape the decisions that need to be taken. Most importantly, by doing this you'll help us to provide the best education we can for young people in this area.



*Susie Charles*

*County Councillor Susie Charles  
Cabinet Member for Children, Young People  
and Schools*

## What is the proposal?

To consult on the future of Hameldon Community College, with effect from 31 August 2018. Any changes would be managed in the best interests of pupils, whose education is our highest priority

- Lancashire County Council, with the governors of Hameldon Community College, will consider all of the ideas received through the consultation to identify potential future options.
- Consideration will be given to whether high standards of education for pupils can be achieved by closing the school, and making alternative provision for current and future pupils at other local schools.

## The purpose of the consultation

We want to gather as many practical ideas as possible on the future of Hameldon Community College, to inform the decision making process of Lancashire County Council's cabinet at its meeting in December. This is your opportunity to:

- Seek clarification on the process;
- Raise any issues that will impact on you, which you would like us to look at further;
- Put forward any alternative practical proposals; and
- Ask us any questions.

The results of the consultation will help councillors to decide on the future of the school.

It's important to remember that the purpose of the consultation is to inform councillors.

## The reasons why we are holding a consultation

### Ofsted inspection

The most recent Ofsted inspection of the school took place in July 2015, rating the school as Requires Improvement. This is in spite of significant additional support received by the school since 2008.

### Numbers of pupils attending

The number of pupils attending the school has been falling for some years. It has experienced a 14% decline in the numbers on roll and a 34% decrease on intake to Year 7 over the last five years. The latest figures, from January 2017, show that the school had 296 pupils on roll, in a school built for 750.

The reality is that the school is currently 60% empty and this looks set to continue, as only 35 pupils have expressed an interest in joining the school in September 2017. There are between 85 and 98 places left unfilled in each year group at the school.

It is recommended that secondary schools have at least 600 pupils, so that there is a sustained staffing structure that can deliver a diverse and quality curriculum. This decline in pupil numbers means that the school is currently educationally and financially at risk.

## Financial position

The decline in pupil numbers has in turn led to a reduction in the school's budget. The impact of this has resulted in the school's costs being higher than its income for a number of years. This is likely to worsen over the next few years.

Fewer pupils attending the school will also mean that the school will receive less money in the future.

Schools by law must set a balanced budget.

Unfortunately, the school isn't expected to be able to do this, which means that it is no longer financially viable.

## Educational standards

Lancashire County Council has both a legal duty and a commitment to provide high-quality school places. Pupils at Hameldon Community College are currently not receiving a broad and balanced curriculum, and this cannot continue.

The educational standards achieved by pupils at the school have varied over the last five years, with standards only above the Government's minimum standards in two of these years. The school is also below the new 2016 'Progress 8' standard, placing the school in the bottom 3% nationally.

Although a high proportion of pupils are from disadvantaged backgrounds, their progress doesn't reach the Government's minimum requirement and does not compare favourably against pupils at other Lancashire schools of similar ability.

Fewer pupils attending the school means that it receives less money, which impacts on the school's ability to deliver effective education to its pupils.

## Leadership and teaching

The school does not have permanent leadership arrangements in place currently and has had to rely on a number of consultant part-time headteachers.

The school has also struggled to recruit and retain good teachers, particularly in subjects such as mathematics, and has had to rely on a high number of temporary supply teachers to fill staffing gaps.

Over half of the teaching staff are employed on

a daily supply basis, which has an impact upon the curriculum they are able to offer, the quality of teaching, pupil behaviour and ultimately on academic results.

## Multi-academy trust

There have been many attempts over a number of years to find a suitable academy sponsor for the school to enable it to become part of a multi-academy trust (MAT). This has not been successful.

## Additional support

Lancashire County Council has been providing significant extra support for the school since 2008.

This has included both time and professional resources.

Despite these efforts, the school has not been able to maintain any improvements.

## The governing body

Hameldon Community College's governing body has expressed concern about the situation at the school. Despite the support that the school has received from the county council, standards have still fallen, and the governors asked that the long-term future of the school be considered.

## The current position

Whatever the outcome of this consultation, Lancashire County Council will continue to work closely with Hameldon Community College, ensuring that resources are in place to continue to provide an education to its pupils.

## Places available at alternative local schools

The availability of other school places in the area is an important consideration.

The table on the next page shows the total number of places (PAN) available at Burnley schools, and their available capacity for 11-16 year olds (Net Cap). These figures are based on the pupil numbers in each year group, as at January 2017.

School	Type	Number on roll as at January 2017 Census						PAN	Net Cap
		Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total		
Hameldon Community College	C	58	52	64	65	57	296	150	750
Sir John Thursby Community College	FT	231	214	213	200	206	1064	210	1050
Burnley High School	FS	93	89	45	0	0	227	90	450
Unity College	FT	257	222	203	195	176	1053	240	1166
Blessed Trinity RC College	VA	268	262	257	249	236	1272	250	1290
Shuttleworth College	FT	139	119	109	161	145	673	210	1050
<b>Total</b>	1046	958	891	870	820	4585	1150	5756	

(C = Community; FT = Foundation Trust; FS = Free School; and VA = Voluntary Aided).

## How this proposal will affect pupils at the school

We urge you to let us have your views on the future of Hameldon Community College, including its possible closure.

If the decision were taken for the school to close, the best interests of each pupil would be our priority, including making sure that they were able to start at a different school for the start of the 2018/19 academic year. All parents of pupils in Years 7 to 10 will be contacted with the guaranteed offer of a place at an alternative school. Pupils currently in Year 11 will be unaffected by this proposal as they will have left school by the time any proposals are implemented.

Parents would also be able to express a preference for their child to attend any other local school, as long as places were available.

Lancashire County Council's pupil access team will be available to offer information and advice throughout this process.

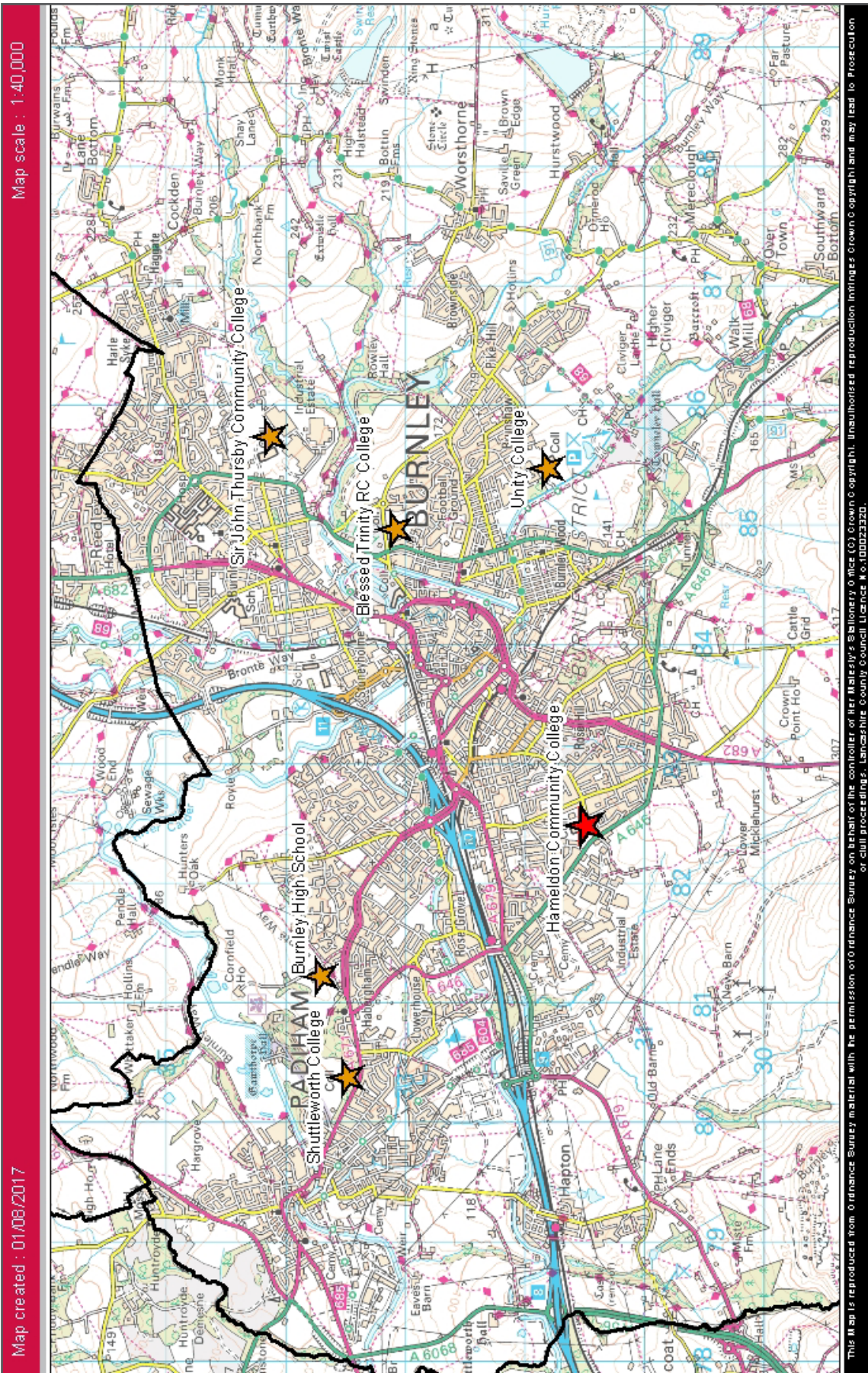
## Key considerations

The results of the consultation will inform the decision by councillors on Lancashire County Council's Cabinet on whether to take this proposal to the next stage. In coming to a decision, the Cabinet will need to consider:

- Whether young people have access to the broad and balanced curriculum they are entitled to receive
- Whether there are enough high-quality school places in the future in this area
- Use of resources and financial sustainability

**Your views will be important to help us to achieve this.**

# The location of other schools in the area



## Next steps – timescales for the process

There are five stages of a statutory process that have to be followed legally:

11 September to 20 October 2017

**Stage one** – Consultation.

December 2017

Cabinet meeting to consider feedback from the consultation and to decide whether to publish a Statutory Notice on a proposal to close the school, or not

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### IF REQUIRED

January 2018

**Stage two** - Publication of Statutory Notice on the proposal to close the school

January / February 2018

**Stage three** - Four week statutory representation period

March / April 2018

**Stage four** - Final decision to be taken by Lancashire County Council's Cabinet

31 August 2018

**Stage five** - Implementation (if approved)

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## Consultation event

**An important part of the consultation will be an event held at the school on 11 October 2017 from 3pm to 8pm. Anyone who wishes to express their views at the event will be able to do so by making an appointment. Appointments will help us to keep waiting times to a minimum and also to make sure that suitable officers are present who will be able to answer any specific concerns or questions.**

You can attend the event without an appointment but those with one will have priority. This could mean that you may wait longer if you don't have an appointment.

Appointments can be made by emailing the Pupil Access Team at [pupilaccess.central@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:pupilaccess.central@lancashire.gov.uk) or by phoning them on **01772 531676**.

**The closing date for booking an appointment is Wednesday 4 October 2017 at 5pm.**

If there are only a few or no appointments made, then the event may be shortened.

It would be very helpful if you could let us know the issues you wish to raise in advance of the consultation event, so that we are able to provide you with as full a response as possible.

## Who we will consult

We will seek views widely on the future of Hameldon Community College. This consultation document will be provided to people and organisations that may have an interest in these proposals. These include the following:

- Parents, carers, staff, governors and pupils of Hameldon Community College. The views of the pupils at school will be gathered through the school;
- Parents, carers, headteachers, governing bodies and staff of other local schools;
- Local Member of Parliament – Burnley;

- Lancashire County Councillors – Burnley;
- Lancashire Parent Carer Forum;
- Chief Executive, Leader and elected members of Burnley Borough Council;
- Neighbouring local authorities who border the area;
- Diocesan/Church Authorities and Faith Groups;
- Members of the Education Scrutiny Committee;
- The Children’s Partnership Board for the area;
- Education and Skills Funding Agency;
- Trade Unions and Associations;
- Lancashire Association of School Governing Bodies;
- Ofsted: Her Majesty’s Inspector for the area;
- The Regional Schools Commissioner; and
- The wider community – through Burnley libraries and Burnley Town Hall

Copies of the consultation document can be made available to the local community on request.

## How to share your views

We welcome your views on this proposal. All comments will be considered very carefully, before any further action is taken.

It is important that you share your views by 5pm on Friday, 20 October 2017, by any of the following ways we’ve listed.

We won’t be able to consider any responses received after this date.

An online questionnaire at: [www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolorganisationreviews](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolorganisationreviews)

A written response by email to: [haveyoursay@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:haveyoursay@lancashire.gov.uk)

A written response by post to:

**Business Intelligence, Lancashire County Council, PO Box 100, County Hall, Preston PR1 0LD**

Alternatively, you can return your completed questionnaire to the general office at Hameldon Community College. This will then be returned to Lancashire County Council on your behalf.

Unfortunately, due to the high number of responses we expect to receive, we will not be able to acknowledge written responses, or enter into correspondence with interested parties during or after the consultation period.

It is important to attend the relevant consultation event if you require clarification or more information on the proposal.

Further information regarding this proposal, including the cabinet report and any relevant frequently asked questions (FAQs) with answers are available on the council website at:

[lancashire.gov.uk/schoolorganisationreviews](http://lancashire.gov.uk/schoolorganisationreviews)

During the consultation period, all the information we receive will be collated, and used to inform any decision. For your information, in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government regulations, all written responses may be disclosed to the public and could also be published on the website of Lancashire County Council as background papers to the report to the cabinet.

**The consultation period will run from 11 September to 20 October 2017.**

**An event, as part of the consultation, will be held on 11 October 2017 at the school.**



# QUESTIONNAIRE please cut along the dotted line and return to us

## Who should complete this questionnaire?

- Staff, governors, current or prospective parents/carers of pupils at Hameldon Community College
- Any other interested member of the community

## Q1

Which of the following options, if any, would you prefer for the future of Hameldon Community College?

Please tick one box only

Option 1 – continue as things are

Option 2 – close Hameldon Community College and pupils start at other local schools

Option 3 – do something else

Unsure/don't know

## Q2

Thinking about your choice in the previous question, why did you choose this option? (If you chose Option 3 please explain what you think should be done)

Please write in the space below.

## Q3

One of the options being considered is to close Hameldon Community College. If this was to happen, how strongly do you agree or disagree with the closure?

Please tick one box only

Strongly agree

Tend to agree

Neither agree or disagree

Tend to disagree

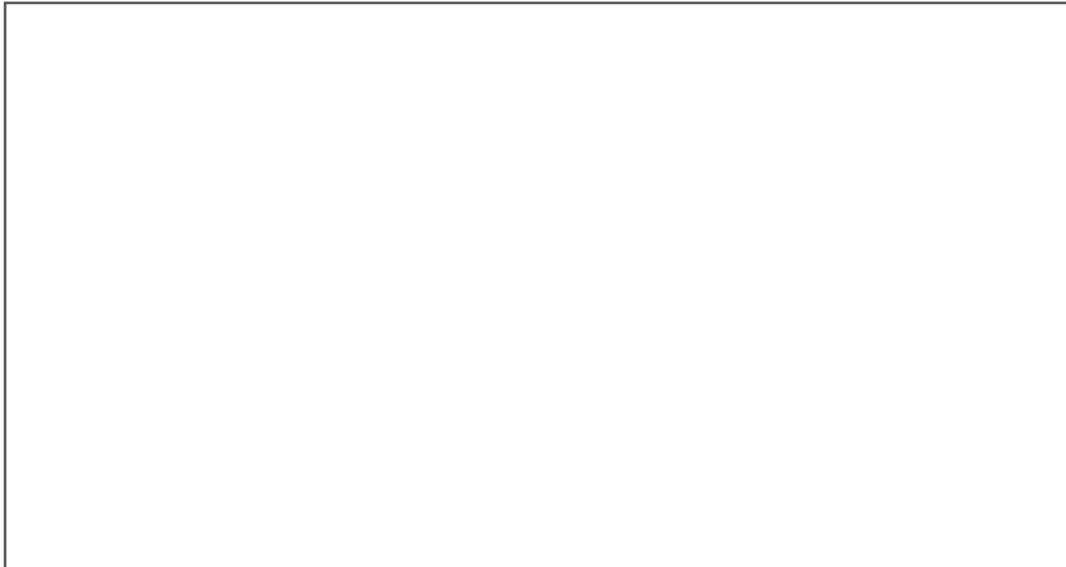
Strongly disagree

Unsure/don't know

## Q4

**And if Hameldon Community College was to close, how would this impact on you?**

*Please write in the space below.*



## Q5

**Is there anything else you would like to tell us?**

*Please write in the space below.*



### **About you**

To help us to consider how we provide our services to different groups of people, it is important that we ask you a few questions about yourself. All the questions in this section will be completely confidential. However, if you do not wish to answer a question, please leave it blank and go on to the next one.

## Q6

### Are you responding to this proposal as...?

Please tick as many as apply

	Hameldon Community College	Other school*
A parent/carer of a pupil currently at:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A parent/carer of a future pupil at:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A member of staff at:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A school governor at:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If other school*, please specify:	_____	
A political representative for:	_____	
Member of the local community:	_____	
Other (please specify):	_____	

## Q7

### What was your age on your last birthday?

Please tick one option only

Under 16	<input type="checkbox"/>	35-49	<input type="checkbox"/>
16-19	<input type="checkbox"/>	50-64	<input type="checkbox"/>
20-34	<input type="checkbox"/>	65+	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Q8

### Are you...?

Please tick one option only

Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	Female	<input type="checkbox"/>
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## Q9

### Are you a deaf person or do you have a disability?

The Equality Act 2010 defines a disabled person as someone who has a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Please tick as many as apply

Yes, learning disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, mental health condition	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes, physical disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, other disability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes, sensory disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	No.	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Q10

**Are there any children or young people in your household aged under 18?**

*Please tick as many as apply*

- |                   |                          |                           |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| No, but expecting | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes, aged 12-15           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Yes, aged under 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes, aged 16-17           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Yes, aged 5-8     | <input type="checkbox"/> | No children aged under 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Yes, aged 9-11    | <input type="checkbox"/> |                           |                          |

## Q11

**Which best describes your ethnic background?**

*Please tick one option only*

- |                        |                          |                  |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| White                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mixed            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Black or Black British | <input type="checkbox"/> | Any other ethnic | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Asian or Asian British | <input type="checkbox"/> | group (write     |                          |
| Other                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | in below)        |                          |

## Q12

**What is your home postcode?**

*Please write in the space below.*

**Thank you for taking part in this consultation. You can either return your completed questionnaire to:**

**Business Intelligence, Lancashire County Council, PO Box 100,  
County Hall, Preston, PR1 0LD**

**OR**

**To the general office at Hameldon Community College.**

**This will be returned to Lancashire County Council on your behalf.**

### **Important Information**

Lancashire County Council may be required to publish consultation responses as part of the reports for consideration by its cabinet either as appendices to those reports or as part of the background papers referred to in those reports and available on request. Please be aware that your responses to this consultation may be made available on the county council's website as part of this process.