

Standard Impact Assessment: Medway UTC

Summary Information for Schools within the local area						
School name	School type	Distance	Capacity/ (surplus Y10)	Attainment in 2013 (5A*-C incl English and Maths)	Ofsted grade	Impact rating
St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive	Voluntary Aided School	1.2	1163/ (2)	47%	Good	High: St John Fisher is within the usual travelling distance for pupils in Medway and has attainment below the national average. It is undersubscribed with 271 surplus places overall. The UTC could have a negative impact on the viability of this school.
Bishop of Rochester Academy	Academy Sponsor Led	1.6	1500/ (64)	26%	Requires Improvement	High: Bishop of Rochester is within the usual travelling distance for pupils in Medway and has attainment below the national average and an RI Ofsted judgement. It is undersubscribed with 532 surplus places overall. The UTC could have a negative impact on the viability of this school.
The Hundred of Hoo Academy	Academy Sponsor Led	2.2	1721/ (88)	48%	Good	High: The Hundred of Hoo is within the usual travelling distance for pupils in Medway and has attainment below the national average. It is undersubscribed with 436 surplus places overall. The

						UTC could have a negative impact on the viability of this school.
The Brompton Academy	Academy Sponsor Led	0.7	1251/ (-7)	41%	Good	Moderate. The UTC is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school.
Chatham Grammar School for Girls	Academy Converter	1.4	967/ (29)	94%	Good	Moderate. The UTC is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school.
The Robert Napier School	Academy Sponsor Led	1.6	1361/ (-1)	47%	No Ofsted Grade	Moderate. The UTC is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school.
Chatham Grammar School for Boys	Academy Converter	1.9	1116/ (1)	96%	Inadequate	Moderate. The UTC is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school.
The Thomas Aveling School	Academy Converter	2.4	1140/ (-7)	41%	Good	Moderate. The UTC is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school.
Walderslade Girls' School	Academy Converter	2.8	949/ (-4)	55%	Good	Moderate. The UTC is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school.
Strood Academy	Academy Sponsor Led	2.9	1318/ (0)	43%	Good	Moderate. The UTC is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school.
Fort Pitt Grammar School	Academy Converter	1.2	1053/ (44)	99%	Outstanding	Minimal. The UTC is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school.
The Rochester Grammar School	Academy Converter	2.0	1200/ (1)	99%	Outstanding	Minimal. The UTC is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school.
Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School	Academy Converter	2.1	1392/ (3)	100%	Outstanding	Minimal. The UTC is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school.

Greenacre School	Academy Converter	2.9	956/ (-21)	57%	Good	Minimal. The UTC is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school.
Rainham Mark Grammar School	Academy Converter	3.1	1235/ (1)	96%	Outstanding	Minimal. The UTC is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school.

Summary

Within the local area of the proposed UTC, the impact assessment estimates that five schools may feel a minimal impact, seven schools may feel a moderate impact and three schools may feel a high impact on the opening of the proposed UTC.

Secondary schools with a high rating

The St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive is located 1.2 miles from the proposed UTC. This school has GCSE results below the national average, but which are improving (47% 5A*-CEM in 2013). It is now above the floor standard and achieved a Good Ofsted judgement (March 2013). There are high surplus places at the school (271) but it is now partnered with St Paul's Academy in Greenwich and has undergone a cultural change with a three year upward trend in results. The LA report that the popularity of the school is increasing and that it made offers at 99% of PAN this year.

The Bishop of Rochester Academy is located 1.6 miles from the proposed UTC. The school has attainment below the national average and a Requires Improvement Ofsted rating (June 2013). Results rose to 42% 5 A*-C EM in 2012 but dipped again to 26% in 2013. The school has a high level of surplus of places of 532 and the loss of further pupils could have a negative impact on the school's viability. However, BoRA has recently moved into its new buildings in September 2013 and the new Head has had a stabilising effect with improvements being made and a particular focus on quality assuring assessment and CPD for staff. The s8 inspection in October 2013 found that senior leaders, governors and sponsors were taking effective action in the short, medium and long-term. Although pupils have low starting points there is now a focus on high quality staff and systems to achieve the desired progress. The LA report that these developments are leading to an improved reputation and increased popularity for the Academy. The school remains at the heart of the community. It achieved an increase in preferences this year and 61% admissions against PAN. The Academy is discussing a reduction in its PAN with the LA from 240 to 180.

The Hundred of Hoo Academy is located 2.2 miles from the proposed UTC. The school has attainment below the national average (48% 5A*-C EM in 2013) but has now achieved the floor target and received a Good Ofsted judgement (December 2012). The school has surplus places of 436. While the loss of further pupils could exacerbate the existing surplus issue in this school and impact on the school's overall viability, the LA report that the school is increasing in popularity and made offers at 100% of PAN this year. It has been partnered with the successful Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School since 2009 and became part of the Williamson Trust in 2011. The Trust is also sponsoring a number of primary schools on the Hoo peninsula and this, together with the fact that 95% of pupils tend to remain on the peninsula for their secondary education, transferring to the Hundred of Hoo, should mitigate any negative effects on the Academy. Up to 700 new homes will be built on the peninsula in coming years.

The Local Authority's view of impact and any possible mitigation was sought. They confirmed that the 14-19 population will decrease slightly over the next few years after which time it will increase. Within this, the KS5 population will increase due to raising the participation age. The LA also confirmed that a number of large scale housing developments are planned for Medway over the coming years to create an additional 8,200 dwellings, over 5,000 of which will be constructed by 2020/21.

6.6% of young people in Medway are currently NEET compared with 5.7% nationally and the UTC is a crucial part of the plan to reduce the number of NEETs. The UTC catchment will include several areas of high deprivation: Chatham and Gillingham, Snodland and Malling and Gravesend and Maidstone. The oversubscription criteria agreed with the UTC will limit impact on individual schools by using 3 zones and drawing from the 5 sub-regional districts of Medway, Maidstone, Tonbridge and Malling, Gravesham and Swale.

Medway has a number of very successful grammar schools and a number of sponsored academies but the UTC offer does not currently exist and the LA reports that many headteachers accept the vision UTC as a viable third option which will offer additional choice to pupils and parents and sit comfortably alongside other local schools. The LA expects young people to choose the UTC due to an interest in and aptitude for the specialism. As such, the UTC will not be attractive to all students and given the large catchment area it should not draw large numbers from any one school. The LA conclude that there may be some impact on the three high risk schools but that this will be negligible overall. This is overridden by the importance of providing this additional choice and improving the skilled and effective workforce in these economic priority areas, hopefully providing a boost to the local economy overall.

Post-16 Providers	College type	Distance	No. of 16-18 learners	Average Point Score per fte student 2013: academic/ vocational	Ofsted	Impact Rating
Mid Kent College	FE	0.4	4621	666.4/ 517.4	Good	Moderate. The UTC is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the college.
Walderslade Joint Sixth Form	Sixth Form Centre	2.8	242	615.6/ 609.2	No Ofsted Grade	Moderate. The UTC is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the college.
Palmer's College	Sixth Form College	10.0	2071	706.1/ 648.8	Requires Improvement	Moderate. The UTC is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the college.

Summary

Within the local area of the proposed UTC, it is expected that three post-16 providers may feel a moderate impact on the opening of the proposed UTC. The closest provider, Mid-Kent College, is part of the sponsor group and the UTC provision has been designed to complement that at the College, e.g. those students for whom an apprenticeship pathway is most appropriate at 16 will be able to progress to the College.

Summary of Statutory Section 10 Consultation

The Trust's statutory consultation took place from 20 January to 3 March this year (2014). Consultation documents were posted on the UTC website together with an online questionnaire. E-mails were sent to a database of named stakeholders to alert them to the consultation and enclosing the consultation document and questionnaire these included: local MPs and councillors, headteachers of local primary and secondary schools, local youth organisations and local businesses and employers. Information on the consultation was also publicised in local press in print and online across the sub-regional catchment area. The consultation was announced via radio news bulletins on Heart FM. Three public meetings were held in February 2014 at accessible times and locations. The second meeting was well attended by local authority employees as well as local residents and parents. The Trust also met the Medway Youth Parliament and secondary headteachers from Medway, Gravesham, Swale and Maidstone.

329 people responded to the consultation questionnaire (including 60 parents and 31 students, 18 teachers, 106 residents, 100 local businesses/ employers, 12 community representatives and 48 'other'). 200 responses were submitted online with over 1,000 page views of the website. 70% of respondents asked to be kept informed of developments. All three local MPs (Mark Reckless MP (Con), Tracey Crouch MP (Con) and Rehman Chisti MP (Con)) provided written responses expressing positive support for the UTC. Mark Reckless MP and Tracey Couch MP also wrote letters of support. The UTC also received support from both Conservative councillors and the Medway Labour Group although some concerns were expressed about the impact of surplus capacity on schools and colleges.

The consultation questionnaire included the question about whether the Secretary of State should enter into the Funding Agreement with the Trust and this received a strongly positive response with 90% of respondents answering yes (11 responded no and 23 don't know). Of those who responded negatively, there were a variety of reasons. Some considered there was sufficient existing provision, one argued that engineering and construction were obsolete industries, another that the building would impact on views of the water. The vast majority of responses to the consultation questionnaire were also positive about the UTC's planned location (94.7%), education vision (93.7%) curriculum and specialisms (96%). In response to the question asking parents and students whether they would consider applying to Medway UTC 70% (161 respondents) answered yes.

Overall, respondents were strongly in support the proposal. They liked the description of the UTC as a 'third way' in addition to the current choices of grammar schools and academies/ high schools. They were positive about the opportunity to prepare for specialist employment from 14 and considered that the UTC would have a beneficial impact on the local economy. An example

comment from a local parent was *“This is an excellent initiative, particularly since this is linked to the higher education sites nearby. I believe this will help younger people in the Medway towns to aspire to improve their prospects and contribute to the future. It will also provide local employment and increased prosperity to the Medway towns.”* Within this context, some issues of concern were raised including concerns about the location of the UTC and access issues, potential site toxicity, building aesthetics, transition at Year 10, admissions, students receiving a rounded education, the UTC being allocated resources at the expense of local schools and the QTS status of staff. The Trust has responded to these issues as part of the consultation report. This has included confirmation that the site will be fully remediated before completion of the purchase and that the design of the building will be approved by local planners. The sub-regional admissions approach is also described which has been designed to minimise the impact on local schools. A travel plan has also been submitted as part of the planning application and the Trust have held discussions with the local bus company, securing agreement to improve public transport access to the UTC site. In the report, the Trust noted their agreement that QTS is desirable for staff teaching the core curriculum but that specialists including employers and trainers would also deliver some aspects of the technical curriculum.

To supplement the consultation, officials wrote to Medway and Kent local authorities which make up the catchment area. Medway Council wrote in support of the project; no response was received from Kent.

Conclusion

Overall, the unique nature of the provision and specialisms will ensure that there is no direct competition with individual schools and colleges. The UTC will be relatively small, with 600 students at full capacity, in comparison to existing providers. We expect there may be a moderate impact on seven schools and three FE colleges and a minimal impact on five schools. Three schools may feel a high impact on the opening of the proposed UTC however, we have consulted with the LA who considers that the impact will be negligible overall and that it will not threaten the long term viability of any institution. The LA expects young people to choose the UTC due to an interest in and aptitude for the specialism. Given this and the large catchment area it should not draw large numbers from any one school. The LA considers that providing this additional choice and improving the skilled and effective workforce in the economic priority areas, thus boosting the local economy overall, has a high importance, balancing the impact on existing institutions which the Trust has sought to minimise through the admissions arrangements. In the light of the evidence available, officials see no reason why the Secretary of State should not enter into a Funding Agreement with the Academy Trust as a result of negative impact.

