

## **Title: Buckinghamshire UTC**

**Author: Department for Education (DfE)**

**Approved in October 2011, opened in September 2013**

### **Impact Assessment – Section 9 Academies Act Duty**

1. Section 9 of the Academies Act 2010 places a duty upon the Secretary of State to take into account what the impact of establishing the additional school would likely be on maintained schools, academies, institutions within the further education sector and alternative provision in the area in which the additional school is (or is proposed to be) situated.

### **Background**

2. Buckinghamshire University Technical College (BUTC) will be a 14-19, co-educational, non-faith UTC. The UTC plans to build towards its capacity of 600 places by 2016, with an intake of 120 students into Year 10 and 100 students into Year 12 in the first year of operation. The UTC will open in 2013 in a purpose built site. It will specialise in construction and IT.
3. The sponsor group consists of Aylesbury College (lead sponsor), Buckinghamshire New University (co-sponsor), Taylor Wimpey (lead employer sponsor), Cisco Systems plc (employer sponsor), McAfee (employer sponsor) and ESRI (employer Sponsor). The UTC also has strong support from Buckinghamshire County Council, Aylesbury Vale District Council and a wide range of employers within the construction and IT sectors.

### **Admissions**

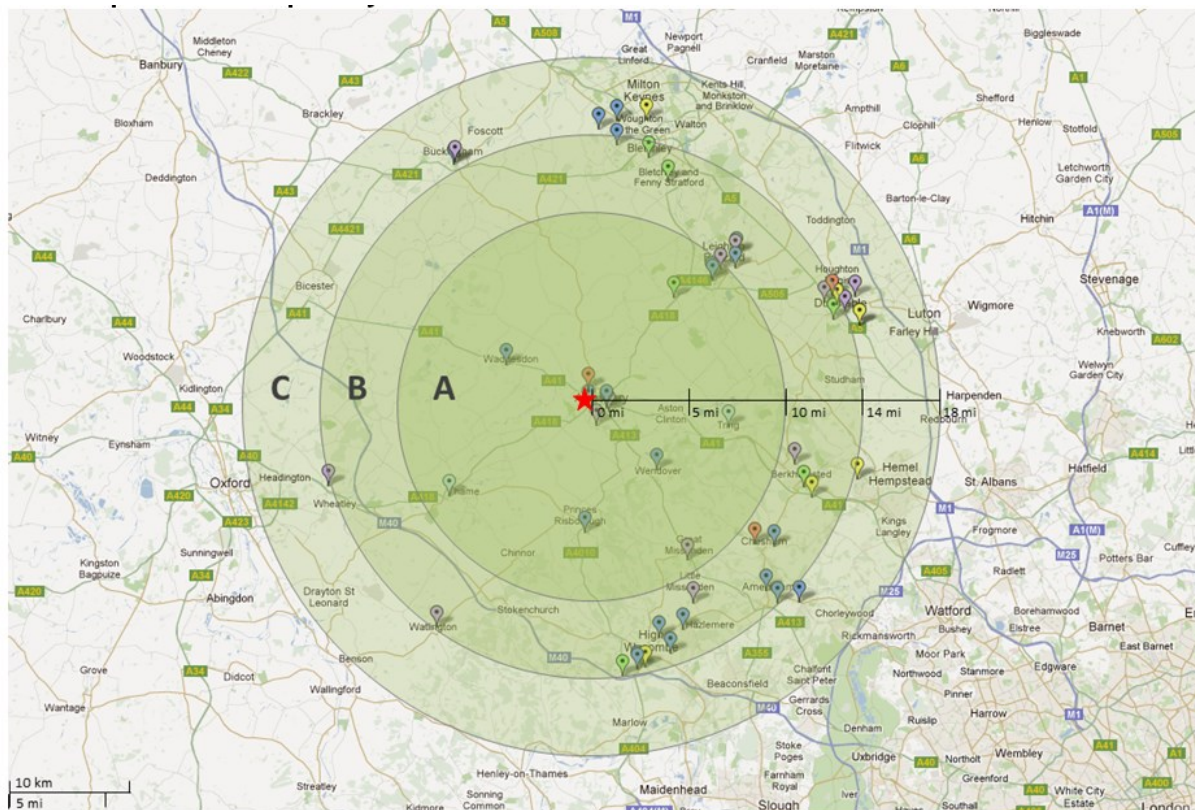
4. The UTC's admissions policy is fully compliant with the School Admissions Code.<sup>1</sup> BUTC will opt out of the local authority co-ordination of admissions arrangements and manage this itself in academic year 2013/14. In subsequent years BUTC will become part of the local authority's co-ordinated admissions arrangements. BUTC will also work in close partnership with the various local authorities in its identified catchment area to ensure that admissions arrangements are joined up.
5. Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admissions number for either specialism choice, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below. After the admission of students with statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN) where Buckinghamshire UTC is named on the statement, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:
  - a) Looked After Children in the care of a local authority
  - b) Children residing in the priority zones of the catchment area in the percentages set out below:
    - Zone A – 33% of the remaining places by random allocation
    - Zone B – 33% of the remaining places by random allocation

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<sup>1</sup> A derogation from the Admissions Code has been approved by the Minister which allows BUTC to split its capacity equally between its two specialisms and ask applicants to specify their preferred specialism.

- Zone C – 33% of the remaining places by random allocation

## Map of BUTC's priority zones



★ BUTC    A: 0-10 miles    B: 10-14 miles    C: 14-18 miles

Priority zones within the catchment area have been determined based on travel to learn time and the number of schools so as not to destabilise existing schools in the Aylesbury area.

c) Children residing outside the priority zones with priority being given to those living nearest to the BUTC as measured in a straight line from the applicants home address to the front gates of the BUTC using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system.

6. If there is the same number or fewer applicants from any zone than places available, then all applicants will be offered a place. Any unfilled zone places will be distributed to those applicants who live in other zones using random allocation.
7. Should there be a need for a tie breaker the decision will be made by independently verified random selection to determine who is offered a place if a zone is oversubscribed. Criterion c) above will not come into operation until all applicants who live in the priority zones have been offered places.
8. Applications from sets of twins or other children from multiple births will be treated as individual applicants, this may result in one child being allocated a place under random allocation and another not.
9. If BUTC are unable to distinguish between applicants on the basis of distance under criterion c) (because they are children who are as a result of multiple birth

or live in the same block of flats) then the child or children who will be offered the available place(s) will be randomly selected.

10. Unsuccessful applicants will have a right of appeal to an independent admission appeals panel.
11. Where in any year the BUTC receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until the end of the first term. This will be maintained by the BUTC Trust and it will be open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list. A student's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out above. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to students on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

### **Catchment area and demand**

12. The UTC will have a wide catchment area of 18 miles. Apart from Buckinghamshire LA, the UTC also expects to draw students from Milton Keynes, Hertfordshire, Central Bedfordshire, Oxfordshire and West Berkshire LAs. Buckinghamshire also borders Northamptonshire, Hillingdon, Windsor and Maidenhead and Bedford, so it is possible that some pupils from these LAs may apply to BUTC.
13. There is currently a 5.7% surplus of secondary school places within the local area (10 mile radius from BUTC proposed site) in which BUTC will be located. There is some evidence of basic need within the district of Aylesbury as the secondary pupil population is expected to increase by 7.7% between 2011/12 and 2017/18. Looking at neighbouring LAs, the secondary pupil population is expected to increase in Central Bedfordshire (13.2%), Hertfordshire (8.9%) and Oxfordshire (6.3%) between 2011/12 and 2017/18. This will contribute to an increase in demand for education places, which will need to be satisfied by either expanding current provision or establishing new provision.
14. Wider analysis undertaken by the proposer group and other bodies has shown that employers within the construction and IT sector, which are important sectors of the regional and national business landscape, struggle to attract suitably qualified and skilled candidates from the locale. BUTC's chosen specialism has the ability to address the skills gap within the construction and IT sector in Buckinghamshire and the wider economic region, thus satisfying an articulated demand for these specific skills.
15. In preparing their original application, the proposer group consulted with a range of local and national companies with sites in Buckinghamshire and the wider economic region. These companies confirmed that the UTC's proposed specialisms strongly resonate with their business objectives and areas of skills shortage. The level of commitment and support from employer partners in the design and delivery of the UTC's curriculum indicates that the UTC has the potential to meet current unmet demand within the construction and IT sector. The UTC's current partners within the construction and IT sector include Prolix Ltd, Blackberry, HP, Esri, McAfee, Cisco Systems Ltd, National Trust, Landmark Trust, Heritage skills network, Owlsworth IJP and Federation of Master Builders.
16. It could be argued that NEET figures are an indicator of how well the current

education system attracts/retains young people and equips students with the skills in demand by employers. The table below shows the NEET figures for the local authorities in BUTC's catchment area.

<b>Table 1: Proportion of 16-18 year olds who are NEET</b>		
<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>NEET figures 2007</b>	<b>NEET figures 2011</b>
Buckinghamshire	2.7%	4.1%
Milton Keynes	5.8%	5.8%
Hertfordshire	4%	4.6%
Central Bedfordshire	Information not available	3.9%
Oxfordshire	4.2%	6.1%
West Berkshire	4.4%	4.4%
England average	6.7%	6.1%

17. Although none of the local authorities have 2011 NEET figures which exceed the England average, the table shows that for five out of six of the LAs NEET figures have either remained the same or increased. This goes against the general trend in England where NEET figures have fallen overall. Buckinghamshire, which is the home LA to the UTC, has seen the second highest increase in its NEET figures. One of BUTC's stated aims is to develop rounded and competent students who will contribute positively to the local economy. BUTC has been cited by local authorities in its catchment area to have the potential to improve both choice and employability for young people. In addition, consultation carried out by BUTC has shown that BUTC curriculum offer has strong appeal to parents and future students.

#### Local Authority View

18. All local authorities within BUTC's catchment area were invited to provide their view on the proposed UTC. In addition, Windsor and Maidenhead LA, Northamptonshire LA, Hillingdon LA and Bedford LA were also invited to comment on the establishment of BUTC. Responses were received from Central Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire.

19. All responses were in favour of establishing BUTC. The local authorities highlighted increase in choice and improved opportunity for young people to pursue a career locally as being some of the key benefits of opening BUTC.

20. It is also worth noting that Buckinghamshire County Council is acting as the procuring authority for the building and development phase of BUTC.

#### Representations

21. No direct representations have been received by the Department but a public

consultation was conducted by the proposer group. The consultation ran from 21 February to 20 April 2012. As part of the consultation a 16 page consultation document outlining the proposals was written and sent to all local secondary and primary school head teachers (maintained schools and independent schools). The consultation documents and questionnaire was distributed via email to Buckinghamshire County Councillors and Aylesbury Vale District Council Councillors. Consultation information and invitations to meet sponsors were emailed to the Directors of Education of all neighbouring counties and boroughs (Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Central Bedfordshire, Bedford Borough, Milton Keynes, Hertfordshire, Oxfordshire, West Berkshire, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Hillingdon). Information was also distributed to local members of parliament.

22. A Buckinghamshire UTC consultation website was set up, this contained information on the proposals and downloadable versions of all consultation material including the questionnaire, which was made available for the general public to respond to. Interested parties were invited to open days which were held by Aylesbury College on 2 and 3 March where UTC representatives were available to answer queries and provide further information on the UTC and adverts were placed in the local press to invite interested parties to a consultation specific drop-in session which was held on 29 March. In addition, three head teacher forums were held (29 February, 7 March and 28 March).
23. The majority of responses received to the questionnaire were in support of the UTC. It was highlighted that if the UTC achieved the aspirations outlined in the consultation document, it would be a very attractive proposition for local students. All respondents who identified themselves as parents, wanted to send their children to the UTC and 100% of respondents to the consultation questionnaire answered “yes” to the question “Do you support the proposals?”. No opposition to the establishment of the UTC was expressed at the head teacher forums, the open days or drop-in sessions. However, there was some concern aired regarding the UTC’s impact on local education provider’s ability to recruit and retain students and questions raised about how the admissions arrangements would work in practice. The proposer group has been clear that its desire is for BUTC to be complementary to the current educational offer in Aylesbury and Buckinghamshire, and Buckinghamshire County Council is assisting the UTC with developing partnerships with local schools. BUTC will offer out of hours use for adults and its specialist facilities and teaching will be made available to local schools and students. Local schools will also be given the opportunity to network with the members of BUTC, including BUTC employer partners in order to gain an understanding of employer needs and opportunities relating to construction and IT in the local area.

### **Impact on secondary schools**

24. BUTC expects to draw students from an 18 mile radius catchment area which goes beyond the Buckinghamshire LA boundary. Table 2 shows the average distance travelled by secondary school pupils in the LAs the UTC expects to draw students from. Considering the data in the table, it is clear that the vast majority of secondary school pupils within the UTC’s expected catchment area travel less than 5 miles to their school. The average distance travelled by secondary school pupils in Buckinghamshire, which is where the UTC will be based, is 3.2 miles. Of the LAs in BUTC’s catchment area, Buckinghamshire has the largest

proportion of secondary school pupils who travel more than 5 miles to their school, but this still means that the average distance travelled by 77.7% of secondary school pupils in Buckinghamshire is less than 5 miles.

<b>Table 2: Distance travelled by secondary school pupils</b>			
<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Average distance travelled by secondary school pupils</b>	<b>Number of secondary school pupils travelling more than 5 miles to school</b>	<b>Proportion of secondary school pupils travelling more than 5 miles to school</b>
Buckinghamshire	3.2 miles	7584	22.3%
Milton Keynes	1.5 miles	847	5.5%
Hertfordshire	2.1 miles	7778	9.8%
Central Bedfordshire	1.6 miles	1155	5.3%
Oxfordshire	2.3 miles	3697	10.6%
West Berkshire	2.0 miles	1085	9.0%

25. Taking into account on one hand the small number of secondary school pupils who travel 5 miles or more to their school and on the other hand BUTC's desire to have a wide catchment area, we have assessed the impact of opening the UTC on all secondary schools within a 10 mile radius. It is officials' view that it will be unlikely that schools situated over 10 miles away from the UTC will be impacted or will be more than minimally impacted.
26. The UTC's admissions have been designed so as not to destabilise existing schools in the local area. Given the UTC's wide catchment area and relatively small size in comparison to other secondary schools, there are two broad types of impact we might expect on secondary schools:
- a) A diffuse impact, whereby a large number of secondary schools each lose only a few pupils to the UTC.
  - b) A school performance, or specialism-related, impact in which a small number of schools experience a more significant loss of pupils to the UTC.
27. To estimate the extent of impact of the establishment of BUTC, we have excluded specific types of schools which we assume will remain relatively unaffected. Although they may lose some pupils to the new UTC, we expect this loss to be minimal. We have excluded schools based on the following assumptions:
- Alternative providers and special schools are excluded due to the substantial difference of offer between what they provide and a UTC. We expect the potential impact on these providers to be minimal.
  - Primary Schools are excluded because there is no overlap in age group between a primary school (5-11 years old) and a UTC (14-19 years old).
28. Below is a discussion of the likely impact on the schools within a 10 mile radius of the proposed UTC site.



**Table 3: Schools within the local area (10 mile radius)**

School name	Distance from UTC site	School capacity	Proportion of surplus places	% 5A*-C incl Eng & Maths 2011	Ofsted	Impact Rating
Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School	0.07	1,065	3%	99%	Good	Minimal
The Aylesbury Vale Academy	0.88	1,500	52%	39%	Satisfactory	Moderate
Aylesbury High School	0.89	1,183	-9%	100%	Good	Minimal
Aylesbury Grammar School	0.91	1,336	4%	99%	Outstanding	Minimal
The Grange School	1.07	1,363	6%	57%	Satisfactory	Minimal
The Mandeville School Specialist Sports College	1.09	1,010	-1%	33%	Satisfactory	Minimal
Waddesdon Church of England School	4.68	959	-4%	68%	Outstanding	Minimal

**Table 3 continued: Schools within the local area (10 mile radius)**

John Colet School	4.85	998	-2%	56%	Good	Minimal
Princes Risborough	6.54	950	-1%	43%	Good	Minimal
The Cottlesloe School	6.95	1,119	-2%	51%	Satisfactory	Minimal
Tring School	7.3	1,507	1%	78%	Good	Minimal
Lord Williams's School	8.63	2,232	8%	61%	Good	Minimal
Cedars Upper School	9.07	1,345	9%	68%	Good	Minimal
The Misbourne School	9.46	1,148	-3%	60%	In Special Measures	Minimal

**School where the impact has been assessed as minimal**

29. Table 3 shows that the opening of BUTC will have a minimal impact on 13 schools. These schools either have a small surplus or are oversubscribed. The majority of the schools are based further than 3.2 miles from the proposed UTC and/or have high attainment levels. A minimal rating implies that the schools will either not lose pupils to the UTC or may lose some but will still be able to fill most or all of their places. The UTC is not expected to significantly impact on these schools' overall attainment, viability and ability to improve.

## **School where the impact is assessed as moderate**

30. Table 3 shows that the opening of BUTC is expected to have a moderate impact on one school, The Aylesbury Vale Academy. A moderate rating implies that the school may lose some pupils but should still be able to fill most of its places. However there might be some impact on the school's overall attainment, viability and ability to improve.

### **The Aylesbury Vale Academy**

31. Aylesbury Vale Academy is a sponsored academy which opened in September 2009. The academy is currently operating from the same buildings as its predecessor school but plans are under way for a move to a new purpose built site in September 2013. The academy's specialist subjects are science, technology, and information and communication technology. It is currently located 0.88 miles from the proposed UTC site and has a capacity of 1500. The academy had a surplus capacity of 52% in 2011/12. In 2011, 39% of the Aylesbury Vale Academy's students achieved 5+ A\* to C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths, which was below both the LA and national average. However, this represented a 13% improvement of the academy's 2010 attainment levels. The Aylesbury Vale Academy was rated satisfactory by Ofsted in November 2011.

32. The distance between the Aylesbury Vale Academy and the BUTC site is below the average distance travelled by secondary school pupils in Buckinghamshire LA. This in combination with the academy being rated as satisfactory by Ofsted may result in potential parents/pupils being attracted by an alternative. Although there is some overlap in the specialism of the academy and BUTC the difference in their curriculum offer and delivery is substantial enough for each provider to have its unique appeal to potential students. We would therefore not expect the academy to lose a significant number of potential pupils to BUTC. The academy is fairly new but is showing early signs of improving its attainment levels. This coupled with the fact that it will continue to be supported by its sponsors (Oxford Diocesan Board of Education and Buckinghamshire County Council), should continue to add to its capacity to improve and attract students in the future. We would therefore not expect the opening of BUTC to affect the long-term financial viability of the Aylesbury Vale Academy. Additionally, any loss of pupils to BUTC may be mitigated by the increase in demand for secondary places in the mid to longer term. The impact of the opening of BUTC has therefore been assessed as moderate.

### **Impact on sixth form colleges and FE colleges**

33. There is one college, Aylesbury College (one of the sponsors of the UTC), within a 10 mile radius from the proposed UTC site. Aylesbury College is a medium-sized general further education college with over 4,000 learners out of which 1,603 learners are aged 16-18. The college offers courses in 15 subject areas, but most learners follow courses in arts and media, public services and care, retail and commercial enterprise, preparation for life and work, literature and culture, languages and health. The college is located adjacent to the proposed UTC site. For attainment at level three, the college's attainment is below the LA and national averages. Aylesbury College was rated satisfactory with good capacity to improve by Ofsted in March 2010.



34. The proximity of Aylesbury College to the proposed location of BUTC combined with having a satisfactory Ofsted rating may attract potential students/parents to an alternative. However, the college is a large provider and has a sizeable adult (18+) student population so even if it did lose some pupils to the new UTC we do not expect this to affect the long-term viability of the college. It is worth noting that Aylesbury College is the lead sponsor for BUTC and as such can be expected to develop a mutually beneficial partnership with BUTC. As there is some overlap between the UTC's and the college curriculum offer, the college is already planning to share staff and facilities with BUTC. We do not expect BUTC to significantly impact the long-term financial viability of the college, though there may be a moderate impact on a specific specialism of the college. The impact of the opening of BUTC has therefore been assessed as moderate.

### **Impact on Free Schools, Studio Schools and other UTCs**

35. There are no Free Schools, Studio Schools or other UTCs within 10 miles of the proposed site for BUTC. The nearest UTC to BUTC's proposed site is Central Bedfordshire UTC (CBUTC) which is at 18.3 miles distance from BUTC and will open in September 2012. CBUTC's specialisms are design, engineering and manufacturing. The two UTCs' defined catchment areas do not overlap and the difference in their curriculum offer means that the UTCs will not be competing for the same students.

### **Conclusion**

36. The impact of the opening of BUTC on the majority of secondary schools will be minimal as 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. This means that the loss of students incurred by the majority of providers should not have an impact on their long-term viability.

37. Additionally, the UTC will introduce more choice in options available to young people and is aiming to satisfy skills shortages that have been articulated by local and national employers. All six LAs within the UTC's defined catchment area are supportive of the UTC for these reasons.

38. Taking all of the above into account and considering the possible impact of BUTC on existing providers, it is officials' view that it would be appropriate for the Secretary of State to enter into the Funding Agreement with the Academy Trust.