

Title: Silverstone 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 institution would likely be on maintained schools, Academies, institutions within the further education sector and alternative provision in the area in which the institution is (or is proposed to be) situated.

Background

2. Silverstone UTC (SUTC) will be a 14-19, co-educational, non-faith UTC. The UTC plans to build towards its capacity of 576 places by 2014, with an intake of 138 students into Year 10 and 150 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 high performance engineering and events management.
3. The sponsor group consists of Tresham College of Further and Higher Education (lead sponsor), University of Northampton (university sponsor) and Silverstone Circuits Ltd (lead employer sponsor). The UTC also has strong support from Northamptonshire County Council, Aylesbury Vale District Council, South Northamptonshire Council and a wide range of employers within the high performance engineering and events management sector.

Admissions

4. The UTC's admissions policy is fully compliant with the School Admissions Code.¹ SUTC will be part of Northamptonshire County Council's co-ordinated admissions arrangements. SUTC 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 Silverstone UTC receives more applications than places available, the following oversubscription criteria will apply after the admission of pupils who have a statement of special education needs that names the school as appropriate provision. The oversubscription criteria will be applied in the order as below:
 - a. Children in public care (looked after children)
 - b. Remaining places will be allocated by random allocation (independently verified) within each of the following 'zones' as follows:
 - i. 40% of places will be allocated whereby priority is given to applicants who live in Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire.

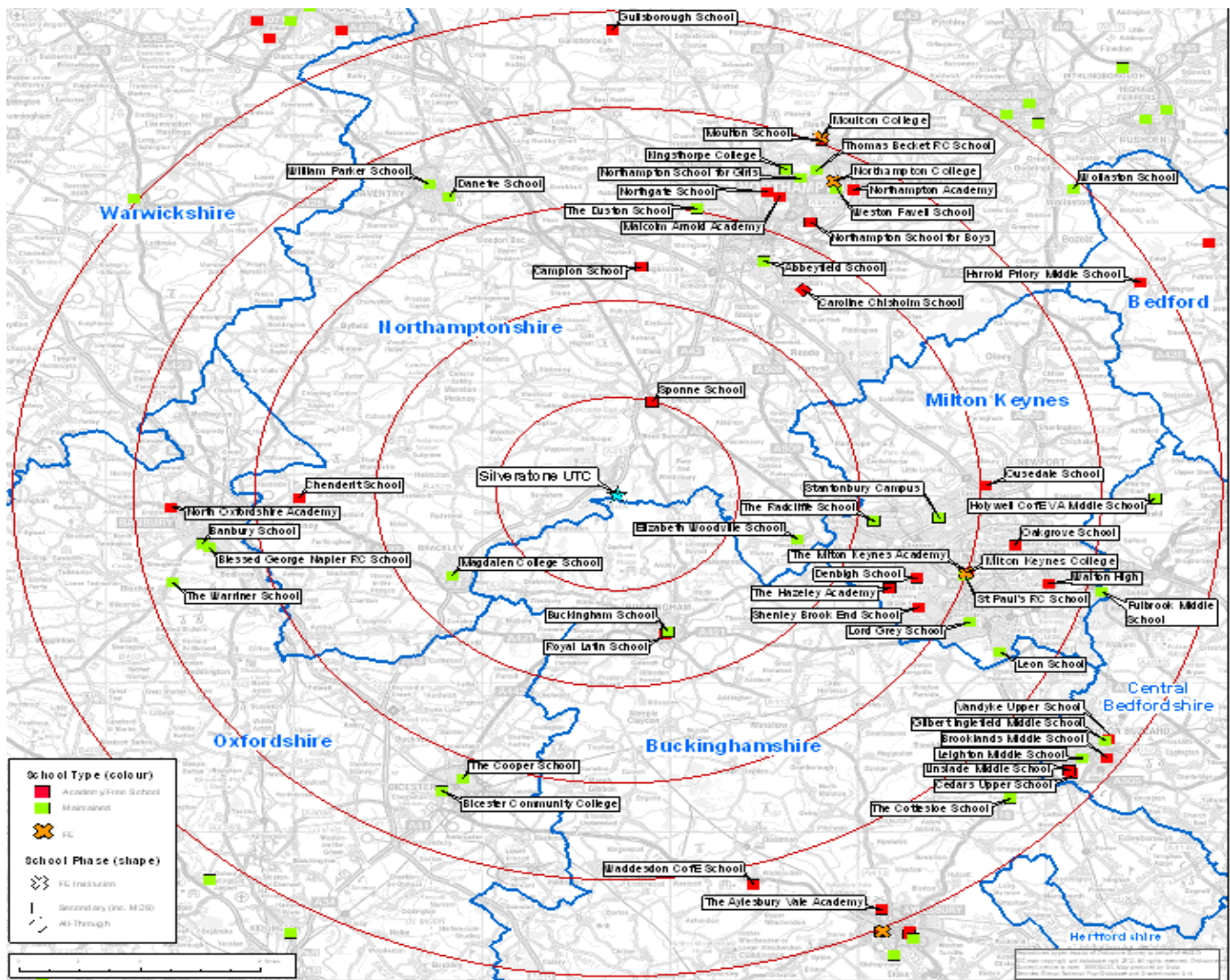
¹A derogation from the Admissions Code has been approved by the Minister. The derogation allows SUTC to divide its capacity between its two specialisms and ask applicants to specify their preferred specialism.

- ii. 15% of places will be allocated whereby priority is given to applicants who live in Milton Keynes.
 - iii. 15% of places will be allocated whereby priority is given to applicants who live in Central Bedfordshire.
 - iv. 15% of places will be allocated whereby priority is given to applicants who live in Oxfordshire.
 - v. 15% of places will be allocated whereby priority is given to applicants who live outside of the other zones.
6. If places remain available from any of the five zones these will be redistributed to those applicants from zones that are oversubscribed using random allocation.
7. In the case where Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire is one of the oversubscribed zones a weighting of places will be applied before random allocation occurs. This will be two places for the Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire zone to one place across all of the other oversubscribed zones, unless no other zones are oversubscribed in which case the Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire zone will be allocated all remaining places. Random allocation of places will then take place for the Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire zone and separately across all of the other zones as a whole.

Catchment area and demand

8. The UTC will have an initial catchment area of 20 miles. Apart from Northamptonshire LA, the UTC expects to primarily draw students from Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Central Bedfordshire.
9. There is currently a 13.3% surplus of secondary school places within the local area (10 mile radius from SUTC's proposed site) in which SUTC will be located. There is some evidence of basic need as the secondary population in the sub-region is projected to increase over the next few years. Of the five LAs within the UTC's catchment area, Milton Keynes is expected to see the highest rise in secondary population and the secondary population increase outweighs the number of surplus places. Likewise, the expected increase in Central Bedfordshire's (13.2%) secondary pupil population between 2011/12 and 2017/18 also outweighs the number of surplus places. 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.

SCHOOLS WITHIN SUTC's CATCHMENT AREA



- In preparing their original application, the proposer group researched and consulted with a range of companies with sites in Northamptonshire 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 high performance engineering and events management sector. The UTC's current partners within these sectors include Cosworth Ltd, Cobra Racing Ltd, Hillspeed Racing Ltd, Tripple Eight Race Engineering Ltd, Hitech Racing, Cube Design, Fortec Motorsport, British Racing Drivers' Club, Aspire Hospitality, The Master Chefs of Great Britain and South Northamptonshire Leisure Trust.
- 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 SUTC's catchment area.

Table 1: Proportion of 16-18 year olds who are NEET		
Local Authority	NEET figures 2007	NEET figures 2011
Northamptonshire	5.6%	5.4%
Milton Keynes	5.8%	5.8%
Oxfordshire	4.2%	6.1%
Buckinghamshire	2.7%	4.1%
Central Bedfordshire	Information not available	3.9%
England average	6.7%	6.1%

10. Although none of the local authorities have 2011 NEET figures which exceed the England average, the table shows that for three out of five 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. It is worth noting that the two local authorities, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, who had the two lowest NEET figures in 2007 are the ones who have seen the highest rise in their NEET figures. SUTC's vision is to develop students who will be highly effective and motivated to contribute, shape and lead in the engineering and events management sector. SUTC has been cited by local authorities in its catchment area to have the potential to improve choice for young people and contribute to the pool of skills required by local employers.

Local Authority View

11. The local authorities within SUTC's catchment area were invited to provide their view on the proposed UTC. Responses were received from all local authorities.

12. All local authorities, apart from Buckinghamshire, were in support of establishing SUTC. Buckinghamshire LA's hesitation to give its full support to SUTC was related to the possible impact SUTC could have on Buckingham School. A detailed assessment of SUTC's possible impact on the school is provided in the "impact on secondary schools" section of this document.

13. The local authorities in favour of SUTC, highlighted increase in choice and meeting local skills shortages as being some of the key benefits of opening SUTC. It is also worth noting that Northamptonshire County Council is acting as the procuring authority for the building and development phase of SUTC.

Representations

14. No direct representations have been received by the Department but a public consultation was conducted by the proposer group. The consultation ran from 13 February to 23 March 2012. As part of the consultation a consultation brochure,

summarising the proposals, was made available online and in printed formats. The consultation brochure included a questionnaire which allowed respondents to give their answers/views online, by post or return the form at open consultation events. Letters (including copies of the consultation brochure) were sent to all secondary schools, colleges and sixth forms within the local authorities in SUTC's catchment area. The proposer group also wrote to all dignitaries from the local area and surrounding boroughs/counties, including Members of Parliament and Councillors.

15. Adverts were placed in local press and on the websites of all local authorities within SUTC's catchment area to invite interested parties to consultation events. Three consultation events targeted at prospective students, parents/carers and the local community were held on 28 February, 8 and 12 March respectively. A fourth consultation event specifically designed for Head teachers of schools in Northamptonshire and surrounding areas was held on 14 March. This event was jointly hosted with Daventry UTC.
16. In total, 12 responses were received to the consultation questionnaire, out of which 11 were in support of the UTC and 1 against. The supportive respondents highlighted that SUTC represented a great opportunity for local students. The key concern of the respondent who was not in support of SUTC was that funding was being cut and diverted from existing provision to fund new provision. At the consultation events, the proposer group responded to numerous questions on the subjects of ethos, curriculum, admissions/access, building/facilities (including transport) and relationship with external partners. No opposition to the establishment of the SUTC was expressed at the consultation events.

Impact on secondary schools

17. SUTC expects to draw students from a 20 mile radius catchment area which goes beyond the Northamptonshire 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 catchment area travel less than 5 miles to their school. SUTC's site is based on the boundary of Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire. The average distance travelled by secondary school pupils in Northamptonshire is 2.1 miles and the average distance travelled by secondary school pupils in Buckinghamshire is 3.2 miles. Of the LAs in SUTC's catchment area, Buckinghamshire has the largest proportion of secondary school pupils who travel more than 5 miles to their school. However, this still means that the average distance travelled by 77.7% of secondary school pupils in Buckinghamshire is less than 5 miles.

Table 2: Distance travelled by secondary school pupils

Local Authority	Average distance travelled by secondary school pupils	Number of secondary school pupils travelling more than 5 miles to school	Proportion of secondary school pupils travelling more than 5 miles to school

Northamptonshire	2.1 miles	4267	10.2%
Milton Keynes	1.5 miles	847	5.5%
Oxfordshire	2.3 miles	3697	10.6%
Buckinghamshire	3.2 miles	7584	22.3%
Central Bedfordshire	1.6 miles	1155	5.3%

18. 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 SUTC'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 upon.

19. 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.

20. To estimate the extent of impact of the establishment of SUTC, we have excluded specific types of schools which we believe 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:

- o 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.
- o 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).

21. The table below sets out the impact on secondary schools within a 10 mile radius from SUTC, this is followed by a discussion of the likely impact on the schools.

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
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Sponne School	3.98	1278	4%	80%	Satisfactory	Minimal
Buckingham School	5.97	1178	22%	56%	Satisfactory	Moderate
Royal Latin School	6.02	1203	-6%	99%	Outstanding	Minimal
Elizabeth Woodville School	6.26	1048	24%	62%	Satisfactory	Moderate
Magdalen College School	6.43	1647	14%	76%	Good	Minimal
The Radcliffe School	8.57	1275	22%	36%	Good	Moderate
Campion School	9.45	1455	0%	69%	Satisfactory	Minimal
The Hazeley Academy	9.83	1564	25%	64%	Good	Minimal

Schools where the impact has been assessed as minimal

22. Table 3 shows that the opening of SUTC will have a minimal impact on five schools. 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.

Schools where the impact has been assessed as moderate

23. Table 3 shows that the opening of SUTC is expected to have a moderate impact on three schools – Buckingham School, Elizabeth Woodville School and The Radcliffe School. 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.

Buckingham School

24. Buckingham School is a community secondary school. The school has specialist status as a Sports College and the age range of its pupils is 11-18. It is located 5.97 miles from the UTC site and has a capacity of 1178. The school had a surplus capacity of 22% in 2011/12. In 2011, 56% of the Buckingham School's students achieved 5+ A* to C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths, which was below both Buckinghamshire LA average and the national average. However, this represented a continuation of a three year trend of improved results. The Buckinghamshire School was rated satisfactory with good capacity for sustained improvement by Ofsted in November 2011.

25. As stated previously, Buckinghamshire LA aired concerns regarding the possible impact SUTC could have on Buckingham School. The local authority's key concern was that SUTC may have a negative impact on the continuing

improvement of Buckingham School. It stated that if the 15% allocation of SUTC's places to Buckinghamshire LA residents was to be taken up by young people who would otherwise have attended Buckinghamshire School, this would have a significant impact on the school. Given the distinctively different profiles of the two providers, Buckingham School's status as a sports college compared to SUTC's specialisms of high performance engineering and event management, it is highly unlikely that SUTC would attract 15% of young people who would otherwise have attended Buckingham School. Although, there is some overlap in the curriculum offer of the school and SUTC the difference in specialisms and delivery is substantial enough for each provider to have its unique appeal to potential students.

26. The school is currently rated satisfactory by Ofsted and has attainment below both Buckinghamshire LA and national average. This may result in potential parents/pupils being attracted by an alternative. Buckingham School was significantly undersubscribed with large number of surplus places in 2011. However, it is located 5.97 miles from SUTC's proposed site, which is above the average distance travelled by secondary school pupils in Buckinghamshire (3.2 miles). So, although the loss of a few pupils could exacerbate the existing surplus issues we do not expect SUTC to have a negative impact on the long-term financial viability of the school. Additionally, any loss of pupils to SUTC may be mitigated by the increase in demand for secondary places in the mid to longer term.
27. Taking into account all of the above, the impact of the opening of SUTC on Buckingham School has been assessed as moderate.

Elizabeth Woodville School

28. Elizabeth Woodville School is a community secondary school and is located 6.26 miles from the proposed SUTC site. The school has a capacity of 1048 and the age range of its pupils is 11-18. It had a surplus capacity of 24% in 2011/12. In 2011, 62% of Elizabeth Woodville School's pupils achieved 5+ A* to C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths, which was above both Northamptonshire LA average and the national average. The school was rated satisfactory by Ofsted in 2009. In February 2012 the school received a letter from the Minister of State for Schools congratulating it on the achievement of its pupils at Key Stage 4 in 2011, which put the school amongst the 100 top performing schools based on sustained improvement in each year from 2008 to 2011.
29. As the school is rated satisfactory by Ofsted it is possible that potential parents/pupils could be attracted by an alternative. Elizabeth Woodville School was significantly undersubscribed with large number of surplus places in 2011. There is some overlap in the curriculum offer of SUTC and the school but the difference in their curriculum offer and delivery is substantial enough for each provider to have its unique appeal to potential students. This in combination with that the distance between the school and SUTC's proposed site is above the average distance travelled by secondary school pupils in Northamptonshire LA (2.1 miles), would limit the number of potential pupils Elizabeth Woodville School

could be expected to lose to SUTC. Although the loss of a few pupils could exacerbate the existing surplus issues we do not expect SUTC to have a negative impact on the long-term financial viability of the school. Additionally, any loss of pupils to SUTC may be mitigated by the increase in demand for secondary places in the mid to longer term.

30. Taking into account all of the above, the impact of the opening of SUTC on Elizabeth Woodville School has been assessed as moderate.

The Radcliffe School

31. The Radcliffe School is a foundation secondary school and is located 8.57 miles from the proposed SUTC site. The school has a capacity of 1275 and the age range of its pupils is 11-19. It had a surplus capacity of 22% in 2011/12. In 2011, 36% of The Radcliffe School's pupils achieved 5+ A* to C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths. This represented a 16% drop in the school's attainment and was significantly below both Milton Keynes LA average and the national average. The school was rated "good", with outstanding capacity for sustained improvement by Ofsted in 2011.

32. Although the school has a good rating from Ofsted, its attainment levels have been continually below the national average since 2007. The significant drop in its most recent attainment results could lead to potential parents/pupils being attracted to an alternative provider. The school was significantly undersubscribed with large number of surplus places in 2011. However, the distance between the school and SUTC's proposed site is well above the average distance travelled by secondary school pupils in Milton Keynes (1.5 miles). So, although the loss of a few pupils could exacerbate the existing surplus issues we do not expect SUTC to have a negative impact on the long-term financial viability of the school. Additionally, any loss of pupils to SUTC may be mitigated by the increase in demand for secondary places in the mid to longer term.

33. Taking into account all of the above, the impact of the opening of SUTC on The Radcliffe School has been assessed as moderate.

Impact on sixth form colleges and FE colleges

34. There were no colleges within ten miles of the UTC. We have therefore assessed the impact of SUTC on all colleges with 20 mile radius. Within a 20 mile radius, there are three colleges, all of which are FE colleges (there are no sixth form colleges).

Table 4: Colleges within 20 mile radius					
College name	Ofsted	Number of learners aged 16-18	Proportion of learners aged 16-18	Average Point Score per student 2010	Impact Rating

Milton Keynes College	Satisfactory	3056	23.3%	649.2	Minimal
Northampton College	Satisfactory	3984	59.4%	462.4	Minimal
Moulton College	Outstanding	2291	0%	638.1	Minimal

35. All three colleges perform below the LA and national averages. One college, Moulton College, is rated outstanding and the other two colleges are rated satisfactory.

36. These colleges are large providers and have a sizeable adult (18+) student population, so even if they did lose some pupils to the new UTC we do not expect this to affect the long-term viability of any of the colleges. Furthermore, there is a minimal overlap between qualifications offered by these colleges and the specialisms of SUTC. The opening of SUTC is therefore assessed as being minimal on all colleges within a twenty mile radius of the UTC site.

37. It is worth noting that Tresham College has a specialist motorsport training facility, The National College for Motorsport, based at the Silverstone Circuit. The National College for Motorsport provides two courses, Foundation Race Technician Pre-Apprenticeship Course (a level 2 course delivered on part-time basis over a one year period) and Race Technician Pre-Apprenticeship Programme (a level 3 course delivered on full-time basis over a one year period). Whilst there is some overlap with the high performance engineering specialism offered by the UTC, these courses are narrow in their nature and are aimed specifically at individuals that want to become race technicians within the motorsport industry. This is very different to the offer from SUTC. Tresham College is the lead sponsor for SUTC and as such can be expected to develop a mutually beneficial partnership with SUTC, for example sharing staff and facilities. We expect any impact on Tresham College's training facility in Silverstone, to be minimal as worse and do not expect this to lead to a significant impact on the long-term financial viability of Tresham College.

Impact on Free Schools, Studio Schools and other UTCs

38. There are no Free Schools or Studio Schools within a 10 mile or 20 mile radius of SUTC's proposed site. The nearest UTC to SUTC's proposed site is Daventry UTC (DUTC) which is currently in pre-opening. DUTC will be specialising in sustainable new technologies and is, like SUTC, expected to open in September 2013. DUTC's proposed site is located 17.1 miles from SUTC's proposed site, which is well above the average distance travelled by secondary school pupils in Northamptonshire. Although there is a level of overlap in the two UTC's catchment area, the substantial difference in the curriculum offer of the two UTCs should enable each provider to have its own appeal to potential pupils. Furthermore, Northamptonshire LA is in support of both UTCs and the University of Northamptonshire is co-sponsor for both. We assess the impact of the opening of SUTC to be minimal on DUTC.

Conclusion

39. The impact of the opening of SUTC 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 576 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. 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 employers.

Taking all of the above into account and considering the possible impact of SUTC 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 Trust.