The Durham Free School: Section 9 Impact Assessment

- 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 be likely to be on maintained schools, Academies and institutions within the further education sector in the area in which the additional school is (or is proposed to be) situated. Any adverse impact will need to be balanced against the benefits of establishing the new school.
- 2. The tables below assess the impact on secondary schools within the distance in which at least 80% of secondary school pupils in Durham travel to school (4 miles). The impact on post 16 education establishments has also been considered up to a distance of 10 miles. For the completion of the impact assessment, the trust preferred site in the centre of their catchment area has been used as this is where the majority of their pupils are likely to be recruited from. However, the schools identified cover the whole area of Durham City and we would not expect the impact rating to change should the free school be located in Gilesgate permanently.
- 3. Whilst there is a surplus of school places in the area, children from this area attend a number of different schools. This is because distance is used as the main criteria for school admission meaning that children living in the trust's catchment area are not prioritised in any school admissions arrangements. This means that any loss of pupils to the Durham free school will likely be spread between all the schools listed below. For those schools that are currently undersubscribed for entry, any loss of pupils to the free school will have a larger impact that those schools oversubscribed. However, these schools are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted and are therefore unlikely to lose significant numbers of pupils to the free school. The overall conclusion is that although the free school may have an impact on a number of schools in the area, it is unlikely that this will lead to a negative impact on their long-term financial viability.

Impact of Free School on local secondary schools

School name	Distance from free school (miles)	School type	Capacity	Attainment in 2011/12	Ofsted grade	Impact rating
Belmont Community School	3.3	11-16 age range Community School No faith Mixed	820 school places Surplus of school places of 15% Undersubscribed for entry in 2011/12	Well above average 71.3% of pupils achieved 5A*-C inc English and maths.	Good	Moderate The Free School is unlikely to affect the long term financial viability of the school
St Leonard's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Comprehensive School	3.8	11-18 age range Voluntary Aided School Roman Catholic Mixed	1265 school places Surplus of school places of -10% Oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12	Well above average 80% of pupils achieved 5A*-C inc English and maths.	Good	Minimal The Free School is unlikely to affect the long term financial viability of the school
Durham Johnston Comprehensive School	3.8	11-18 age range Community School No faith Mixed	1538 school places Surplus of school places of 2% Oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12	Well above average 77.2% of pupils achieved 5A*-C inc English and maths.	Outstanding	Minimal The Free School is unlikely to affect the long term financial viability of the school

Ferryhill Business Enterprise College	4.1	11-16 age range Community School No faith Mixed	915 school places Surplus of school places of 32% Undersubscribed for entry in 2011/12	Below average 55.5% of pupils achieved 5A*-C inc English and maths.	Good	Moderate The Free School is unlikely to affect the long term financial viability of the school
Spennymoor Comprehensive School	4.4	11-18 age range Foundation School No faith Mixed	853 school places Surplus of school places of 9% Oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12	Above average 63.2% of pupils achieved 5A*-C inc English and maths.	Satisfactory	Moderate The Free School is unlikely to affect the long term financial viability of the school
Framwellgate School Durham	4.6	11-18 age range Academy Converters No faith Mixed	1234 school places Surplus of school places of 3% Undersubscribed for entry in 2011/12	Well above average 73.9% of pupils achieved 5A*-C inc English and maths.	Good	Minimal The Free School is unlikely to affect the long term financial viability of the school

Impact of free school on local sixth forms

College name	Distance from free school (miles)	College type	Capacity	Attainment in 2011/12	Ofsted grade	Impact rating
New College Durham	4.7	Further Education college	3720 learners 60% of learners are aged 16-18 This is a large college	Well above average The average points score at level 3 in 2012 is 900	Outstanding	Minimal The Free School is unlikely to affect the long term financial viability of the college
East Durham College	7.9	Further Education college	3760 learners 40% of learners are aged 16-18 This is a large college	Well below average The average points score at level 3 in 2012 is 416.3	Good	Minimal The Free School is unlikely to affect the long term financial viability of the college
Bishop Auckland College	8.8	Further Education college	3764 learners 30% of learners are aged 16-18 This is a large college	Well below average The average points score at level 3 in 2012 is 409.9	Good	Minimal The Free School is unlikely to affect the long term financial viability of the college