

Title: UTC Plymouth

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 to 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. UTC Plymouth will be a 14-19, co-educational, non-faith UTC. The UTC plans to build towards its capacity of 650 places by 2017/18, with an intake of 75 students into Year 10 and 75 students into Year 12 in the first year of operation. The UTC will open in 2013 on the site of the former Parkside Community College. It will specialise in marine engineering and advance manufacturing.
3. The sponsor group consists of Plymouth University (lead sponsor), Plymouth City College, Plymouth City Council, Babcock International Group (lead employer sponsor), Princess Yachts International, the Royal Navy, Pipex Composite Pipes Ltd and Barden Corporation. In addition, the UTC has strong support from local employer organisations, including the Plymouth Manufacturers Group, the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses (Devon branch).

Admissions

4. The UTC's admissions policy is fully compliant with the School Admissions Code. Plymouth UTC will take part in the local authority co-ordinated admissions arrangements from the date of opening. The UTC will also work in close partnership with the other 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, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below. After the admission of students with statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN) where UTC Plymouth 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 within 45 kilometres of the Academy as measured in a straight line from the applicant's home address to the visual centre of the Academy using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system will together be selected places by random allocation; and
 - c) Children residing outside 45 kilometres with priority being given to those living nearest to the Academy as measured in a straight line from the applicants home address to the visual centre of the Academy using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system.
6. Other procedures to determine applications:

- a. 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; and
 - b. a random selection of a child or children where the UTC is unable to distinguish between applicants on the basis of distance under criterion 5c), because they are children who are as a result of multiple birth of live in the same block of flats,
7. UTC Plymouth will ensure that someone independent of the school supervises the random allocation processes.
 8. Unsuccessful applicants will have a right of appeal to an independent admission appeals panel.
 9. Where in any year the UTC 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 Plymouth UTC 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.
 10. For post-16 admissions, both internal and external students wishing to enter the sixth form will need to achieve at least 5 grade A* - C GCSEs (or recognised equivalents). In addition, students will need to satisfy minimum entrance requirements to the courses for which they are applying. If either internal or external applicants fail to meet the minimum course requirements they will be given the option of pursuing any alternative course for which they meet the minimum academic requirements, if that course is provided by Plymouth UTC.

Catchment area and demand

12. The UTC's catchment is based on the local travel to work area which is approximately 45 kilometres from the centre of Plymouth (up to 45 minutes' drive time). The area includes parts of south east Cornwall - Saltash, Callington and Torpoint - and the surrounding areas of Devon – South Hams, Tavistock and Ivybridge.
13. Plymouth currently has a 2.9% surplus of secondary school places within the local area (within which the UTC will be situated). Looking at neighbouring LAs, Cornwall has a surplus places figure of 8.6% and Devon 6.5%.
14. Wider analysis undertaken by the proposer group and other bodies has shown that employers within the marine engineering and advanced manufacturing sector, which are important sectors of the regional and national business landscape, struggle to attract suitably qualified and skilled candidates from the locale. Plymouth UTC's chosen specialisms have the ability to address the skills gap within the marine engineering and manufacturing sectors in Plymouth 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 companies, many of which have a national impact, and across 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 some of the current unmet demand within the marine engineering and advanced manufacturing sectors. The UTC's current partners within the marine engineering and manufacturing sectors include Babcock International Group, Princess Yachts international, Royal Navy, Pipex Composite Pipes Ltd and Barden Corporation as well as a range of employers' organisations.

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 Plymouth UTC's catchment area.

Table 1: Proportion of 16-18 year olds who are NEET		
Local Authority	NEET figures 2007	NEET figures 2011
Plymouth	6.8%	8.4%
Cornwall	5.8%	5%
Devon	5.7%	5.8%
England average	6.7%	6.1%

17. Plymouth's NEET figures exceed the England average and go against the general trend in England where NEET figures have fallen overall. The table shows that Cornwall's NEET figures mirror the national downward trend, but Devon's figures show a more stable position and is slightly lower than the national figure. One of the main aims of the UTC is to develop skilled and well-rounded and competent students who will contribute positively to the local economy. Business partners and Plymouth LA have given their full support to the project citing it as a project which will complement and enhance the current provision, contribute to the local technical skills base and the wider engineering sector. In addition, consultation carried out by Plymouth UTC has shown that the proposed curriculum offer has strong appeal to parents and future students.

Local Authority View

18. Local authorities within UTC Plymouth's catchment area – Plymouth, Cornwall and Devon - were invited to provide their view on the proposed UTC. A response was received from Plymouth LA which fully supported the establishment of the UTC. The LA is not only in favour of the additional provision for marine engineering and advanced manufacturing with progression to higher education, but is a full sponsor of the UTC. It is also worth noting that Plymouth City Council is acting as the procuring authority for the building and development phase of UTC Plymouth.

Representations

19. No direct representations have been received by the Department but a public consultation was conducted by the proposer group. The consultation ran from 29 February to 15 April 2012. Letters were issued to stakeholders inviting them to participate in the consultation. Stakeholders included pupils and parents within Plymouth and surrounding boroughs, employers in the region, all head teachers of secondary schools, colleges and sixth forms within the catchment area, Plymouth City Council and local Members of Parliament.
20. A Plymouth UTC consultation website was set up, which 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. Three open public consultation meetings were held for prospective students, parents and local communities on 5 March at Plymouth City College, on 8 March at Saltash Guildhall and on 15 March at Ivybridge Town Hall. Adverts were placed in the local press inviting interested parties to the events. In addition, 50 local employers attended two employer workshops and other tailored events have been held for employer organisations, including the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, the Plymouth Manufacturers Group, the Plymouth Rotary Club as well as other smaller umbrella organisations representing local businesses.
21. The majority of responses to the questionnaire - 95% - 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. Only one respondent of the 53 answered “no” to the consultation “Do you support the proposals?” No opposition to the establishment of the UTC was expressed at the head teacher forum, the open days or drop-in sessions. The proposer group has been clear that its desire is for Plymouth UTC to be complementary to the current educational offer in Plymouth. Plymouth City Council will, as a co-sponsor, work with the UTC to ensure existing schools and academies are not disadvantaged as a result of this project.

Impact on secondary schools

22. UTC Plymouth’s catchment area will extend to approximately 45 kilometres, the same as the local travel to work area. This area extends across Devon and Cornwall boundaries. 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 (80%) within the UTC’s expected catchment area travel less than 2.5 miles to their school.

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
Plymouth	1.7 miles	965	5.5%
Cornwall	2.4 miles	4,557	14.4%
Devon	2.7 miles	7,723	18.2%

23. Taking into account on the one hand the number of secondary school pupils who travel 5 miles or more to their school and on the other hand Plymouth UTC’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.

24. 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.

25. In estimating the extent of impact of the establishment of Plymouth UTC, there are some 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:

- 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).

26. 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 (miles)	School capacity	Proportion of surplus places	% 5A*-C incl Eng & Maths 2011	Ofsted	Impact Rating
Devonport High School for Boys	0.5	1,147	0%	99%	Outstanding	Minimal
Stoke Damerel Community College	1.0	1,341	-6%	56%	Outstanding	Minimal
Torpoint Community College	1.6	1,028	17%	47%	Satisfactory	High
Plymouth High School for Girls	1.7	809	-1%	97%	Satisfactory	Minimal
Devonport High School for Girls	1.8	814	-1%	97%	Good	Minimal
The All Saints Church of England	2.3	1,152	12%	n/a	n/a	Moderate

Academy						
Lipson Community College	2.5	1,304	-4%	41%	Outstanding	Minimal
Marine Academy Plymouth	2.5	1,190	15%	n/a	n/a	Moderate
St Boniface's RC College	2.9	959	14%	53%	Good	Minimal
Eggbuckland Community College	3.0	1,486	7%	58%	Satisfactory	Minimal
Saltash.net Community School	3.1	1,332	-1%	57%	Good	Minimal
Sir John Hunt Community Sports College	3.6	895	19%	40%	Good	Minimal
Plymstock School	3.7	1,638	3%	63%	Outstanding	Minimal
Notre Dame RC School	4.1	892	-1%	63%	Good	Minimal
Coombe Dean School	4.3	1,079	-1%	58%	Outstanding	Minimal
Tor Bridge High	4.3	1,166	-3%	42%	Good	Minimal
Hele's Trust	5.0	1,369	2%	60%	Outstanding	Minimal
Ridgeway School	5.5	1,258	7%	43%	Satisfactory	Minimal

School where the impact has been assessed as minimal

27. Table 3 shows that the opening of UTC Plymouth will have a minimal impact on 15 of the 18 schools. These schools either have a small surplus or are oversubscribed. The majority of the schools are based further than 2.5 miles from the proposed UTC and/or have above average 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

28. Table 3 shows that the opening of UTC Plymouth is expected to have a moderate impact on two schools, the All Saints Church of England Academy and the Marine Academy Plymouth. 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 All Saints Church of England Academy

29. The All Saints Church of England Academy is a sponsored academy which opened in September 2010, taking over a failing school. It has a sixth form and specialises in business enterprise and maths. The academy's capacity is 1,152 places but had 12% surplus capacity in 2010/11. As yet it has not had a full Ofsted inspection and there is no attainment data available. 13.9% of pupils are eligible for free school meals compared to 15% nationally.
30. The academy is 2.3 miles from the UTC and is the sixth closest school within the catchment area. There is a possibility therefore that it could lose a number of pupils than schools located further afield, but at 2.3 miles, it is further than the 1.7 average distance pupils travel to school in Plymouth. The specialisms offered at the academy and the difference in its curriculum offer compared to Plymouth UTC should be substantial enough for each provider to have its unique appeal to potential students. This and the fact that it is a relatively new school may likely mitigate the impact the new UTC will have on any displacement of pupils. The academy is sponsored by the Exeter Diocesan Board of Education and the University College Plymouth St Mark and St John. This coupled with the fact that the academy is fairly new, should continue to add to its capacity to attract students in the future and we would not expect the opening of Plymouth UTC to affect the long-term financial viability of the academy. The impact of the opening of Plymouth UTC has therefore been assessed as moderate.

Marine Academy Plymouth

31. Marine Academy Plymouth is a school with a sixth form catering for pupils aged 11 – 18. The school has 1,190 places and has a surplus capacity of 15%. The school is a sponsored academy which opened in September 2010 when it took over a failing school. The sponsors are Plymouth University, Plymouth City Council (both sponsors of UTC Plymouth) and Cornwall College.
32. At 2.5 miles from UTC Plymouth, it is the eighth closest school and further than the 1.7 miles average distance pupils travel to school in Plymouth. There is no attainment data available for the academy and Ofsted has not carried out an inspection to date. The specialisms offered at the academy are technology and science with themes of marine and environment being central to the curriculum and student' learning. Plymouth University and Plymouth City Council who sponsor Plymouth UTC are also sponsors for the Marine Academy Plymouth. Although there is likely to be some overlap in the specialisms offered at both the academy and Plymouth UTC, it is officials' view that it is unlikely that significant numbers of pupils will opt to take up places at Plymouth UTC instead of the academy given the sponsors' interest in seeing both institutions succeed, the distance involved, the relative newness of the academy and the ongoing support of the sponsors.

School where the impact is assessed as high

33. Table 3 shows that the opening of UTC Plymouth is likely to have a high impact on one school, Torpoint Community College. A high impact rating implies that the school may lose enough potential learners to the UTC that it risks not being able to fill some of its places. It may impact on the long term financial viability of the college or could threaten the continuation of a specific specialism of the college.
34. Torpoint Community College is a secondary school with a sixth form and specialises in English and humanities. It is located less than the average

distance travelled to secondary schools in Plymouth (1.7 miles) and so is likely to lose more pupils to the new Plymouth UTC than schools further afield. It has a capacity of 1,028 pupils but was undersubscribed for entry in 2010/11 and has an existing surplus places level of 17% of total capacity (175).

35. The school was rated satisfactory by Ofsted in its last inspection in March 2011. 47% of pupils achieved 5+ A* - C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths in 2011, down from 52% in 2010. This is below the national average of 58%. Compared to the national average, a much lower proportion of pupils in the school made the expected level of progress in maths while a similar proportion made the expected level of progress in English. 13.9% of pupils are eligible for Free School Meals, compared to 15% nationally.
36. The school is the third closest to the UTC in the catchment area. It would therefore be reasonable to expect the school to lose more pupils than schools located at a greater distance from the UTC. At 1.6 miles from the UTC, it is just below the average distance 1.7 miles pupils travel to secondary schools in Plymouth. Ofsted has rated the school as satisfactory and improving; this coupled with the English and humanities specialisms offered compared to Plymouth UTC's marine engineering and advance manufacturing may be mitigating factors in preventing significant losses of pupils.

Impact on sixth form colleges and FE colleges

37. There are two FE colleges within the 10 mile assessment area – City College Plymouth and Plymouth College of Art. The opening of Plymouth UTC is likely to have a minimal impact on both colleges. City College Plymouth is a co-sponsor of the UTC and is working in partnership with the other sponsors to make sure the project is a success. City College Plymouth is rated as satisfactory by Ofsted and is a large provider with a sizeable adult (18+) population, so it should be able to withstand pressure from the loss of some potential students to the new UTC and we would not expect any loss of students to affect the long term viability of the college. Although Plymouth College of Art is a small provider with under 500 students, the majority of whom are 16-18, it is a specialist art college so is unlikely to lose many, if any, potential student to the proposed UTC with its strong technical and engineering focus. Again we would not expect the possibility of a small loss of some potential students to the UTC to affect the long term viability of the college.

Impact on Free Schools, Studio Schools and other UTCs

38. Two new free schools have been approved in the latest Free Schools application round to open in September 2013: Marine Academy Primary will cater for pupils aged 4 - 11 and will not be affected by the UTC; and Plymouth School of Creative Arts will cater for pupils aged 4 – 16 and is unlikely to be affected by the UTC given its age range and its proposed creative arts specialisms.

Conclusion

39. The impact of the opening of UTC Plymouth on the majority of secondary schools will be minimal as the unique nature of the provision and specialisms will ensure that although there will be some competition for pupils, direct competition with individual schools and colleges will be minimal, given the UTC's sub-regional catchment area. The UTC will be relatively small, with 650 students at full

capacity, in comparison to existing providers. Although this means that the loss of students incurred by the majority of providers should not have an impact on their long-term viability, there may be a moderate impact on two schools, All Saints Church of England Academy and Marine Academy Plymouth, and a high impact on one school, Torpoint Community College.

40. 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. Plymouth City Council is a sponsor of the project, recognising the value of the additional and distinctive provision which will equip young people in the area with the necessary education and skills to succeed. Cornwall and Devon LAs are supportive of the new UTC, distributing information through their networks, for example.
41. Taking all of the above into account and considering the possible impact of Plymouth UTC 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.