

Title: Wigan 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 (later as amended by the Education Act 2011) 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 institution is (or is proposed to be) situated.

Background

2. Wigan University Technical College will be a 14 – 19 co-educational, non-faith UTC. The UTC plans to build towards its capacity of 500 places by 2015-16, with an intake of 125 students in Year 10, and 50 students in Year 12 in the first year of operation. The UTC will open on a refurbished site. It will specialize in manufacturing engineering (food production) and green energy and sustainability of the environment.

3. The sponsor group consists of Wigan and Leigh College, the University of Central Lancashire and Ainscough Group of Companies. The sponsors are committed to ensuring that the facilities and curriculum will meet the needs of the future local economy.

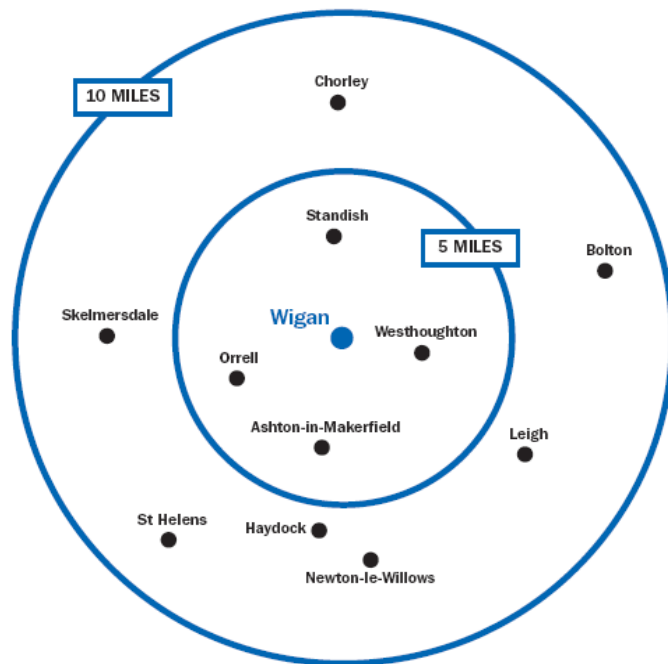
Admissions

4. The UTC's admissions arrangements are fully compliant with the School Admission Code. Wigan UTC will opt out of the local authority co-ordination of admissions arrangements and manage itself in the academic year of 2013/14. In subsequent years it will become part of the local authority's coordinated admission arrangements. Wigan UTC will also work in close partnership with local authorities in its identified catchment area to ensure that admission arrangements are joined up.

5. Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published pupil admission number at Year 10, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below. After the admissions for students with statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN) where Wigan UTC is named on the statement, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below.

- i. Looked after children (under section 22 of the Children Act, 1989) and previously looked after children.
- ii. Students who live within a ten mile radius of the Wigan UTC (Post code WN1 1RP) using an inner and outer catchment area: 50% of places will be allocated to pupils within the 5 miles closest to the UTC and 50% of places to those living within 5 -10 miles of the UTC.
- iii. If places remain available from either the inner or the outer catchment area, places will be offered to applicants using random allocation.
- iv. Students living nearest to the UTC that live outside of the inner or outer catchment area will be given preference.

Map of Wigan UTC's priority zones



- Inner catchment area (0 – 5 miles) - 50% intake
- Outer catchment area (5 – 10 miles) - 50% intake

6. Where there are more applications than places available within criterion (ii), independently verified random allocation will be used to decide which children will be allocated a place.

7. Where there are more applications than places available within criterion (iii), priority will be given to those who live nearest to Wigan UTC. The distance will be measured in a straight line from the student's home address to the front entrance of the UTC site using a Geographical Information System (GIS).

8. If the last place available at the school is offered to a student from a multiple birth, the UTC will admit their twin or sibling from a multiple birth, if they had applied.

9. In Year 12 in 2013, there will be 50 places available to students. In Year 12 in 2014-15, 125 places will be available to internal students. All students will need to meet the academic entry requirements that are set by the UTC which will be published in the Sixth Form Prospectus. The Wigan UTC will operate a sixth form for a total of 250 students when at full capacity, having 125 places at full capacity in each year (Year 12 and Year 13).

10. Applications can be made after the closing date that is set by the UTC but will only be considered in a separate batch, after the applications that are received on time. If there are more applications than places available, the oversubscription criteria above will be used to decide who is allocated a place.

11. Unsuccessful applicants will have the right to appeal to an Independent Admission Appeal Panel if they are dissatisfied with an admission decision made by UTC.

12. A waiting list will operate until the end of the first term. A student's position on the waiting list will be determined in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out above.

Catchment area and demand

13. The UTC will recruit from a sub-regional catchment area which covers 10 miles. The UTC expects to draw in students from Wigan, Bolton and St Helen's in Lancashire.

14. There is currently an 11.6% surplus of secondary school places within the local area in which Wigan UTC will be located (within a 10 mile radius). There is little evidence of basic need, with the secondary population in Wigan and the majority of neighbouring boroughs projected to remain fairly stable or decline. Overall, the secondary population in the whole sub-region is projected to remain relatively stable over the next few years. However, the proportion of surplus places in the local area of the proposed UTC site is much lower than the rate of surplus places in Wigan as a whole.

15. When looking at indices of multiple deprivation, the UTC is located in the 20% most deprived LSOAs (small geographical areas) of the country. When including neighbouring LSOAs, the area is in the 30% most deprived LSOAs. Therefore, the indices of multiple deprivation deciles indicate that the proposed UTC will be located in an area with higher levels of deprivation relative to other areas of the country.

16. The low number of 17 year olds progressing in education or training is an increasing concern for the borough. The gap between 16 and 17 year olds in education and training is 9%, with 16 year olds at 93% and 17 year olds at 84% (2010).

Representations and Local Authority view

17. No direct representations have been received by the Department. Wigan UTC ran a Section 10 statutory consultation from 28 March until 10 May 2012. The consultation brochure (containing a questionnaire) was despatched across Wigan borough and surrounding districts, as well as a leaflet which signposted people to the website and online version of the questionnaire. A number of roadshows took place at major public venues across the borough. These included the Grand Arcade, Wigan, Turnpike Centre, Leigh and at local supermarkets and libraries and outside of the borough including Chorley and St Helens Town Centre. In addition views were sought through a range of meetings with young people and teachers.

18. A total of 282 people responded to the consultation questionnaire. Overall the consultation has shown support for the Wigan UTC with 79% of respondents in favour of its establishment.

19. Only 5% of respondents opposed the UTC. Issues and concerns were raised over the effect the UTC would have on existing provision within the borough. Particularly as it will mean that there will be an increase in the number of providers bidding for funding (this was also the LA's view, please see para 21 below). Additionally, there was some concern around the number of places offered for pre-16 and post-16 places (there are less places on offer at post-16 only in the first year of opening). Respondents felt that the number of places should be adjusted to ensure that those leaving school at 16 years can access the courses available by the UTC. Two-thirds of respondents, however, were in favour of the suggested balance.

Local authority view

21. In principle, Wigan Council is content for Wigan UTC to be established as it confirms their commitment to bridging the gap between the private sector and education. Wigan Council pointed out that several schools in the borough are already struggling with lower budgets. They said as a result of the demographic decline in the numbers of 11- 16 pupils local schools will want to attract their 14 year olds rather than suggest alternative providers of 14-19 education. The Council has requested that the proposers put in place a clear strategy to engage with local schools.

Impact on Secondary Schools

22. Wigan UTC expects to draw in students from Wigan, Bolton and St Helen's (Lancashire). When defining the catchment area they set a one hour maximum travel distance from the site (10 mile radius).

23. To estimate the extent of the impact of the establishment of Wigan UTC, specific types of schools have been excluded which officials assume will remain unaffected. Although they may lose some pupils to the new UTC, officials expect the loss to be minimal. Officials have excluded schools based on the following assumptions:

- Primary schools. There is no overlap in age group between the primary (5 -11 years old) and a Studio School (14-19 years old).
- Alternative providers and special schools. Due to the substantial difference of offer between what they provide and a Studio School, officials expect the potential impact on these providers to be minimal.
- Further Education colleges. There is only a two year overlap in age group between a Studio School and FE college, so the potential loss of students to FE sector in an area is 150 students. FE colleges tend to be quite large (usually over 1000 students) so assuming the loss of students will be spread across FE colleges in the area, it is unlikely that the loss of potential students to any one college will be significant enough to impact on the viability of the college.

School name	Distance from the UTC site (miles)	Ofsted	School capacity	Proportion of surplus places	% 5A*-C incl Eng & Maths 2011	Impact Rating
The Deanery Church of England High School and Sixth Form	0.19	Good	1,389	-9%	57%	Minimal
Rose Bridge High School	0.96	Good	791	14%	28%	Moderate / High
St John Fisher Catholic High	0.97	Good	1,075	12%	63%	Minimal
Hawkley Hall High School	1.78	Outstanding	940	8%	73%	Minimal
Abraham Guest Academy	2.64	Satisfactory	1,025	5%	59%	Minimal
St Peter's Catholic High School	2.80	Outstanding	890	-5%	74%	Minimal
Shevington High School	2.99	Good	890	19%	65%	Minimal
Hindley High School	3.13	Good	933	7%	51%	Minimal
Standish Community High School	3.34	Good	1,250	1%	66%	Minimal
Up Holland High School (Lancashire)	3.78	Special Measures	900	6%	53%	Minimal
Cansfield High Specialist Language	3.86	Good	1,012	4%	55%	Minimal
St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School, Ashton-in-	4.61	Good	1,252	2%	68%	Minimal
The Byrchall High School	4.69	Good	1,158	5%	59%	Minimal
Westhoughton High School (Bolton)	4.82	Good	1,140	-4%	53%	Minimal
Westleigh High School - A College of Technology	4.94	Satisfactory	781	3%	51%	Minimal

Moderate impact on Secondary Schools

24. Table 1 shows that the opening of Wigan UTC is expected to have a moderate to high impact on one school, Rose Bridge High School. A moderate rating implies that the school may lose some potential learners to the UTC but should still be able to fill most of its places. It will not significantly impact on the long term financial viability of the school but there may be a moderate impact on the specific science specialism of the school. A high 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 school or could threaten the continuation of a specific specialism of the school.

25. Rose Bridge High School is the second closest school to Wigan UTC and is located under the average distance travelled to secondary school in Wigan (1.5 miles). In principle, it is more likely to lose pupils to the new UTC than schools further away. It is a specialist science college that offers academic and vocational pathways of study for Key Stage 4 students. In 2011, 28% of students achieved 5 -A*C including English and Maths which put students attainment well below the national average. However, 2012 results have shown a 13% rise in results to 41% of students achieving 5 -A*C including English and Maths. The school was undersubscribed for entry in 2010/2011 and has an existing surplus of places of 14% of total capacity. The loss of a few pupils could increase the existing surplus issue in this school and there could be a significant impact on the school's overall attainment, viability and ability to improve. Rose Bridge High School was rated 'Good' by Ofsted in 2011.

26. Although there is some overlap in the specialism of Rose Bridge High School and the UTC, the difference in their curriculum offer and delivery is substantial enough for each provider to have a unique appeal to potential students. Additionally, there have been recent improvements in GCSE results at Rose Bridge High School, and recognised improvements to the teaching in a 2011 Ofsted report. However, the school still has the worst results by some margin. We would therefore expect the school to lose some potential students to the UTC. The impact opening the UTC has therefore been assessed as moderate/high.

Impact on Colleges

28. It is expected that the impact of Wigan UTC will be moderate on two colleges, Wigan and Leigh College and St John Rigby RC Sixth Form College. Both colleges are located less than three miles away from the proposed site. It is possible that they would lose more pupils to the new UTC than colleges further away.

29. Wigan and Leigh College offers different specialisms for 14 -19 years old pupils, compared to Wigan UTC. Wigan and Leigh College are the lead sponsors of the UTC and as such can be expected to develop a mutually beneficial partnership with Wigan UTC.

30. Additionally, both colleges have below average attainment at level 3 and St John Rigby only has a satisfactory Ofsted rating so potential students may be attracted to an alternative. It is unlikely that any negative impact will be mitigated by an increased demand for secondary school places in the sub-region as the secondary school-aged

population is projected to remain relatively stable over the next few years. However, it is not expected that there will be a risk to the long-term viability of both colleges.

Impact on Free Schools, Studio Schools and other UTCs

31. There is no Secondary or all through Free Schools, UTCs or Studio Schools within 5 miles of the proposed site. However, there are two Free Schools that are situated about 10 miles from the proposed site; Atherton Community School which is located 7.4 miles away and Maharishi School Trust which is located 10 miles away. The nearest UTC, Media City UK (due to open in 2013), is about 20 miles away.

Conclusion

32. The impact of the opening of Wigan UTC on the majority of secondary schools will be minimal as the unique nature of the provision 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, compared 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.

33. Additionally, the UTC will introduce more choice in options available to young people, with its aim to satisfy skills shortages that have been identified by local and national employers. Wigan LA is in support of the UTC for this reason.

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