

Title: Liverpool Life Sciences 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 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

1. The Liverpool Life Sciences UTC was approved to pre-opening in October 2011. It will be a non-selective school for boys and girls aged 14-19, located to the south of Liverpool city centre, specialising in Life Sciences. The UTC will draw pupils from the Liverpool City Region, made up of Liverpool, Halton, Wirral, St Helens, Knowsley and Sefton. It will have capacity for 800 pupils, and will be located in a former urban arts centre that was originally a sugar warehouse.
2. The UTC aims to engage ‘the healthcare system, research and business’ and deliver an excellent curriculum informed by its university and employer sponsors. The sponsors are co-ordinated by the North Liverpool Academy Trust, which runs the 1500-pupil North Liverpool Academy in the city. This Academy is very popular in the local community and was judged to be Good under the new Ofsted framework in January 2012. The leaders of the Academy, including the head teacher and the chair of the Trust, were judged to be Outstanding by Ofsted. The UTC is also sponsored by the University of Liverpool, Mersey Bio and the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust.

Admissions and Catchment Area

3. The Liverpool Life Sciences UTC will have a sub regional catchment area of Merseyside. The UTC will be located in Liverpool LA. The UTC’s pre and post 16 admissions policies are fully compliant with the School Admissions Code.
4. At pre 16, The UTC will be non-selective. Where fewer applications than the published admission number of 200 pupils in year 10 are received the UTC Academy Trust will offer places at Liverpool Life Sciences UTC to all those who have applied.
5. When the UTC is oversubscribed at pre 16, after the admission of pupils with Special Educational Needs where the UTC is named in the Statement, oversubscription criteria will be applied in the following order:
 - a) Children in Public Care
 - b) Children residing within the six local authorities that make up Merseyside (Liverpool, Sefton, Halton, St Helens, Wirral and Knowsley) will be allocated through independently verified random selection
 - c) Children living outside these six local authorities by distance, with those living closer given preference, as measured in a straight line from the applicant’s home address to the front gates of the UTC using the LA’s computerised measuring system.
6. At post 16, in the first two years of operation the UTC will admit 25 pupils to Year

12 (in September 2013) and then 200 pupils in Year 12 (in September 2014). From 2015 onwards, once it is in steady state, the UTC will not admit external pupils to its sixth form, unless it is undersubscribed by its own pupils progressing from year 11.

- At post 16, the UTC will offer four distinct pathways, ranging from most academic to vocational. The UTC Academy Trust has published specific minimum entry requirements for each pathway. These will be applicable to both external applicants and pupil progressing from Year 11 of the UTC. Where pupils fail to meet the minimum course requirements, they will be given the option of pursuing an alternative course that they do qualify for, if that is offered by the UTC. If the UTC is oversubscribed at post 16, once all pupils progressing from the UTC's year 11 have been admitted, the oversubscription criteria in paragraph six above, will apply.

Table 1: Projected secondary pupil numbers in Merseyside catchment area

	Merseyside	Liverpool	Halton	Knowsley
Total school capacity	108,750	33,711	8,611	8,503
% of surplus places	11%	9.1%	13.2%	16.1%
% increase in number of secondary places needed by 2013/14 (basic need)	None	None	None	None
Secondary pupil population increase 2011/12 to 2017/18	-3.7%	-4.7%	0.2%	-7.0%
	Sefton	St Helens	Wirral	
Total school capacity	21,158	11,575	25,192	
% of surplus places	10.7%	8.6%	12.5%	
% increase in number of secondary places needed by 2013/14 (basic need)	None	None	None	
Secondary pupil population increase 2011/12 to 2017/18	-4.3%	-2.8%	-2.6%	

- In the six Merseyside LAs that make up the UTC's catchment area, there is currently 11% surplus of secondary places. No increase in the number of secondary places by 2013/14 is required. Projections indicate that in the next six years there will be a significant decline in the number of places required in Knowsley and Liverpool and Sefton, with a smaller decline in Wirral and St Helens. The number of places in Halton is set to remain stable. Overall, the secondary population in the whole catchment area is projected to decline by around three and a half percent over the period.

Views of existing schools and the local authority

- On 13 March, officials wrote to the [REDACTED] six Merseyside local authorities. These letters sought views on both the Liverpool Life Sciences UTC and The Studio, which is the 2013 Studio School project also sponsored by the North Liverpool Academy Trust. The letters included the web addresses for each project's consultation. We asked each local authority to return their views to the DfE by 27 April 2012.

10. [REDACTED] Knowsley, Wirral, Sefton and Halton did not respond to our request for views. [REDACTED] St Helens Council responded on 23 April, outlining the council's views that, given the distances involved, the UTC and Studio School were 'unlikely to impact' on their schools. [REDACTED] Liverpool City Council responded on 28 March, explaining that the council supported the idea of Studio Schools and UTCs in [REDACTED] that local schools and the council were not involved in the planning of the two specific projects sponsored by the NLA. [REDACTED] letter also explained his fear that this would have a negative impact on 'development planning across the wider city'. [REDACTED] requested a meeting with the NLA, to discuss the projects and the impact on Liverpool schools.
11. Following [REDACTED] letter to the Department, the meeting [REDACTED] requested was convened between [REDACTED] Council officers and the North Liverpool Academy sponsors. The NLA contend that they had kept in touch throughout the previous 9-12 months while developing their proposals but that turn over of staff within the Council may have led to some senior staff feeling not included. At the same time the Council has been establishing a City-wide strategy for schooling and school places. Ministers have received correspondence regarding these new commissioning arrangements from the Local Authority Secondary Heads association. Both the Council and the Heads have expressed concern about the establishment of this UTC outside of those arrangements, citing the impact of further surplus places locally and how that risks existing schools.
12. In other ways, however, the local authority has been helpful in identifying a potential building for the UTC. While the conclusion of those processes has been the acquisition of a building not currently owned by the Council, they did suggest two possible sites for the UTC to consider. In the end these alternatives did not represent the viability and value required. Since the decision was made to pursue the acquisition, the local authority planning department has become involved and has been helpful.

Representations

13. Aside from the letters detailed in paragraph ten no direct representations to the statutory consultation have been received by the Department. The Academy Trust of the UTC carried out a consultation that ran from 9th March to 27th April. This is a period of seven calendar weeks. The Academy Trust used leaflets, a dedicated website, social networking and three meetings in their consultation.
14. 50 online responses were received, including two from members of existing NLA staff. 47 of the 48 non-staff responses were in favour of the UTC and in favour of the Secretary of State entering into a Funding Agreement. The one response that was not in favour was submitted by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] St Julie's Catholic School, located approximately 6 miles from the site of the UTC. [REDACTED] comments raised the issue of a lack of collaboration with other school's (echoing those raised by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Liverpool City Council), and concerns that the UTC would be 'detrimental to the current offer for students at KS4/5 across the city [and]... create a surplus of places in schools and potentially led to some courses not running due to a reduction in numbers for a course'.

15. 14 written responses were received, including one anonymous response. All 14 responses were in favour of the UTC and in favour of the Secretary of State signing a Funding Agreement.

Pipeline Free School, Academy, Studio School and other UTC projects

16. There is a significant amount of new provision in pre-opening stage across the 6 Merseyside local authorities. There are two Free Schools, two other UTCs, two Studio Schools and two AP Free Schools in pre-opening. There are three Sponsored Academy projects in the pipeline or in the brokerage stage: Parkland High School, Childwall School and Christ the King Catholic and Church of England Voluntary Aided Centre for Learning. None of these projects are on the list of the 15 closest secondary schools to the proposed UTC, so the impact is likely to be minimal due to the distances between the schools and the UTC being greater than those usually travelled by Merseyside students attending secondary school.

17. The specialist nature of the Life Sciences UTC offer is very distinctive, and reduces the risk that the new UTC would negatively impact on the viability of the new provision outlined about. For example, the UTC is very unlikely to be competing for pupils with the two AP Free School projects. The Life Sciences UTC offers very different specialism from the two other UTCs in the pre-opening stage: the Superport UTC will offer Engineering and Logistics with a focus on the port area of the city and the other UTC will offer Engineering in Birkenhead.

18. The Studio School project in pre opening, called The Studio, also sponsored by the North Liverpool Academy Trust, will specialise in gaming and digital futures, The specialism of The Studio, with its focus on ICT, programming and design, is also very different from the life sciences focus of the UTC, so the offer and appeal to students is likely to be very different. For this reason, we have judged that neither the UTC nor the Studio School will threaten the viability of the other.

19. Ministers should note that there has been substantial capital investment in secondary schools in the Liverpool city region over the last ten years, some through PFI. There is a risk that the impact of new provision is that recently rebuilt or refurbished schools lose pupils and become unviable. The impact on open schools in the surrounding area is assessed below.

Impact on existing schools and colleges

20. We have considered the impact that the UTC may have on the 15 closest secondary schools and six colleges within ten miles of the UTC. The 15 closest secondary schools to the proposed UTC cover a radius of three miles around the proposed site. This is comprehensive when compared to the average distance travelled to school by students in the six Merseyside authorities, which ranges from 1.1 miles in Knowsley to 1.8 miles in Wirral¹.

21. The wide catchment area of the UTC suggests that its impact on most secondary schools and colleges should be limited. We expect the UTC to have a diffuse impact, whereby a large number of secondary schools and post-16 providers across Merseyside each only lose a few pupils to the new UTC.

¹ 2011 DfE data

22. Although the UTC will work to accommodate the needs of pupils where the school is named in their statement of SEN, it will have no specialist SEN provision. Whilst the UTC will ensure its ethos, policies and curriculum meets the needs of pupils of all abilities, it will also have no alternative specialist provision for pupils with highly challenging emotional and behavioural difficulties. As such, the UTC is unlikely to have any impact on special schools or alternative provision settings and these schools have also been excluded from our assessment. We have not considered primary schools as UTCs start at age 14.
23. In the 15 closest secondary schools, attainment is generally above the LA and national averages. Over half the schools (nine schools) are rated as good, four schools are rated outstanding and one school is rated as satisfactory. There are seven girls' schools, two boys' schools and six mixed schools. There are ten Academies within three miles of the UTC site, including the sponsors' own North Liverpool Academy and University Academy which opened on 1 June 2012, replacing Shorefields School.

Table 2: The standards of schools in the local area

		Ofsted judgement	% 5A*-C including English and maths			Distance from UTC site
			2009	2010	2011	
Archbishop Blanch CofE VA High School, A Technology College and Training School	Girls, 11-18	Good	70%	83%	71%	1.1 miles
The Belvedere Academy ²	Girls 11-19	Outstanding	96%	100%	96%	1.1 miles
Bellerive FCJ Catholic College ³	Girls, 11-18	Good	40%	59%	61%	1.3 miles
Shorefields School ⁴	Mixed, 11-18	Good	18%	28%	29%	1.4 miles
St Hilda's Church of England High School	Girls, 11-18	Good	82%	72%	68%	1.7 miles
The Academy of St Francis of Assisi ⁵	Mixed, 11-16	Satisfactory	21%	34%	37%	2.1 miles
Notre Dame Catholic College	Girls, 11-18	Good	31%	46%	54%	2.5 miles
The Blue Coat School ⁶	Mixed, 11-18	Good	100%	100%	99%	2.6 miles
Prenton High School for Girls ⁷	Girls, 11-16	Outstanding	49%	44%	66%	2.7 miles
University Academy of Birkenhead ⁸	Mixed, 11-16	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.7 miles
St Margaret's Church of England High School	Boys, 11-18	Good	78%	79%	66%	2.7 miles
St John Plessington Catholic College	Mixed, 11-18	Outstanding	54%	57%	64%	2.7 miles
North Liverpool Academy ⁹	Mixed, 11-18	Good	31%	45%	44%	2.9 miles
St Anselm's College ¹⁰	Boys, 11-18	Outstanding	93%	94%	98%	2.9 miles
Birkenhead High School Academy ¹¹	Girls, 3-19	Good	n/a	100%	89%	3.0 miles
LA av. for Liverpool			44%	53%	55%	
National av.			51%	55%	58%	

² This was the first independent school in the UK to become an Academy, and opened in September 2007.

³ This is an Outstanding converter, which opened as an Academy in June 2012.

⁴ This is now a sponsored Academy which opened on 1 June 2012.

⁵ This is a Sponsored Academy which opened in September 2005.

⁶ This is a Good converter, which opened as a Academy in March 2012.

⁷ This is an Outstanding converter which opened as a Academy in September 2011.

⁸ This is a Sponsored Academy which opened in January 2011. There are no KS4 results available to-date and no full Ofsted inspection.

⁹ This is a Sponsored Academy which opened in September 2006.

¹⁰ This is an Outstanding converter which opened as an Academy in June 2011.

¹¹ This is a former independent school, an Academy sponsored by the Girls' Day School Trust since 2009.

24. There are also six colleges within ten miles of the proposed UTC. Four of these colleges perform below the Liverpool and national averages and one performs well above the LA and national averages. Two of the colleges are rated as good, two colleges are rated as outstanding, one satisfactory and one is unsatisfactory.

Table 3: The standards of colleges in the local area

	Ofsted judgement	Average points score per student at level 3,	Average points score per student at level 3,	Average points score per student at level 3,
		2009	2010	2011
Liverpool Community College	Outstanding	617.5	623.9	609.0
Birkenhead Sixth Form College	Satisfactory	689.4	707.3	731.4
Hugh Baird College	Good	634.6	656.7	642.7
Wirral Metropolitan College	Good	442.7	492.6	378.2
Knowsley Community College	Unsatisfactory	543.3	575.4	518.3
Carmel Sixth Form College	Outstanding	937.6	960.0	950.2
LA av. for Liverpool		679.3	696.0	701.7
National av.		721.1	726.5	728.2

25. The table below shows the level of impact the UTC will have on the schools and colleges in the local area. A high impact is predicted on one secondary school. A minimal impact is expected on the remaining 20 out of 21 institutions, which means that it is judged that the schools and colleges assessed 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. It has been judged that the UTC will not significantly impact on these 20 institutions' overall attainment, viability or ability to improve.

Type of institution	Level of Impact	Total
Impact on Secondary Schools/Academies	Minimal	14 of 15 schools
	Moderate	None
	High	1 of 15 schools
Impact on colleges	Minimal	6 of 6 colleges
	Moderate	None
	High	None

Table 4: Schools where the impact is likely to be minimal

	Ofsted Rating	School capacity	% surplus places	% 5A*-C inc Eng and maths in 2011	Impact Rating
Archbishop Blanch CofE VA High School, A Technology College and Training School	Good	1065	12.4%	71%	Minimal
The Belvedere Academy	Outstanding	810	10.7%	96%	Minimal
Bellerive FCJ Catholic College	Good	908	0.7%	61%	Minimal
St Hilda's Church of England High School	Good	838	0.1%	68%	Minimal
The Academy of St Francis of Assisi	Satisfactory	900	5.0%	37%	Minimal
Notre Dame Catholic College	Good	992	12.6%	54%	Minimal
The Blue Coat School	Good	1040	7.5%	99%	Minimal
Prenton High School for Girls	Outstanding	790	16.2%	66%	Minimal
University Academy of Birkenhead	n/a	750	n/a	n/a	Minimal
St Margaret's Church of England High School	Good	1050	3.6%	66%	Minimal
St John Plessington Catholic College	Outstanding	1361	-2.1%	64%	Minimal
North Liverpool Academy	Good	1750	25.1%	44%	Minimal
St Anselm's College	Outstanding	1006	14.8%	98%	Minimal
Birkenhead High School Academy	Good	998	20.4%	89%	Minimal

26. Of the 14 schools where impact is judged as likely to be minimal, six are single-sex schools with a faith character. As a non-selective, mixed sex school without a faith designation, the ethos and offer of the UTC is very different to that of these six schools. This is likely to further reduce the impact of UTC on the girls' schools Archbishop Blanch CofE VA High School; Bellerive FCJ Catholic College; St Hilda's Church of England High School; and Notre Dame Catholic College and the boys' schools St Margaret's Church of England High School and St Anselm's College. To a lesser extent, the faith character of the mixed-sex St John Plessington Catholic College and The Academy of St Francis of Assisi will also reduce the likelihood of these schools losing significant numbers of pupils to the UTC.

27. The only school judged to be Satisfactory by Ofsted in the 15 closest secondary schools is The Academy of St Francis of Assisi, which is sponsored by the Anglican and Catholic Dioceses of Liverpool. Although has improved since it became a Sponsored Academy in 2005, at 37% KS4 attainment is around the floor standard for pupils achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs including English and maths. With its current results, the Academy would be below the new KS4 floor standards of 40% in 2012 and 50% by 2015. Its low attainment and relatively low

Ofsted rating suggest that the sustained improvement of the Academy may be threatened if it lost a large amount of pupils to the UTC.

28. Ofsted conducted a monitoring visit at the Academy in January 2012, and concluded that it was making 'Satisfactory progress in making improvements'. Ofsted reported that there had been many changes, particularly in the senior leadership team, since the last inspection. Ofsted specifically mentioned 'two new vice-principals, many new staff in the mathematics and English departments, and a new assistant vice-principal for students with special educational needs and disabilities. The new staffing arrangement, combined with predictions that attainment will increase to at least 40% of students achieving 5A* - C including English and maths in 2012 and 50% in 2013, indicate that the Academy is in a strong position to secure improvements and rise above the floor standard. We have assessed that provided that the Academy does not become unviable because of losing many pupils to the UTC, the upward trajectory should continue.
29. The Academy of St Francis of Assisi has a faith character and an environment and sustainability specialism, which mean that the ethos of the Academy is likely to be very different from that of the UTC. This will reduce the likelihood of it losing pupils to the UTC. Finally, the distance between the Academy and the proposed site of the UTC is 2.1 miles, which is more than the average distance travelled to school by pupils in all the six Merseyside local authorities. Having considered all these factors, we have assessed the impact of the proposed UTC to be minimal.
30. The impact on the North Liverpool Academy is also judged to be minimal, particularly as it is 3 miles away from the proposed site of the UTC, which is almost double the average distance travelled to school by pupils in Liverpool (1.9 miles). This Academy is, however, the main sponsor of the UTC. It is, therefore, likely that students at the NLA will be better informed about the UTC, and more likely to be actively encouraged to consider transferring to the UTC by staff at the school who know both their pupils' strengths and interests and the offer of the UTC.
31. The North Liverpool Academy received a very positive Ofsted report in early 2012, which judged the school to be Good and the leadership at all levels to be Outstanding. It is held in very high regard locally, and is oversubscribed for year seven entry, with around two applicants for every place. The high surplus capacity figures in the table above are largely due to spare places in year 10 and 11; entry to these years was limited by the predecessor schools' buildings and PAN when these students were in year 7. The surplus capacity is calculated against the new Academy building and current PAN, which is larger. Therefore, the Academy is confident that all surplus places will be eradicated in two years. Furthermore, the sponsorship of a UTC is entirely voluntary, and the leadership of the Academy is aware of the potential risk and have strategies in place to mitigate the impact. As a result of the oversubscription, good Ofsted rating and excellent leadership of the Academy, we conclude that it is unlikely that the impact of the UTC will put the viability or continued improvement of the Academy at risk.
32. The impact on Prenton High School for Girls, University Academy of Birkenhead, St John Plessington Catholic College, St Anselm's College and Birkenhead High School Academy is likely to be very minimal as all of these schools are on the other side of the Mersey River. This is a significant natural and cultural barrier,

and local intelligence says that students are very unlikely to cross the river to attend school.

Table 5: Colleges where the impact is likely to be minimal

	Ofsted	Number of learners aged 16-18	Proportion of learners aged 16-18	Average Point Score per student 2011	Impact Rating
Liverpool Community College	Outstanding	4145	47.3%	609.0	Minimal
Hugh Baird College	Good	2195	65.5%	642.7	Minimal
Wirral Metropolitan College	Good	2028	37.9%	378.2	Minimal
Knowsley Community College	Unsatisfactory	2268	60.4%	518.3	Minimal
Carmel Sixth Form College	Outstanding	1710	100%	950.2	Minimal
Birkenhead Sixth Form College	Satisfactory	1179	100%	731.4	Minimal
Liverpool av				701.7	
National av				728.2	

33. The impact on all six colleges in the local area has been judged to be minimal. This implies that that the colleges will not lose potential learners to the UTC or may lose some but will still be able to fill most or all of their places. We have judged that the UTC will not significantly impact on the long term financial viability of the colleges outlined above or on a specific specialism of those colleges.
34. The impact of the UTC on many of these colleges is likely to be mitigated by the full age range the Colleges cater for and that the UTC only offers courses up to the age of 18/19. There is only one Sixth Form College on the same side of the river as the UTC, Carmel College. However, given the Outstanding Ofsted rating and the very high attainment over the past three years, it seems unlikely that the College would not struggle to fill its places, even if it did lose some pupils to the UTC.
35. The impact on Birkenhead Sixth Form College may be slightly greater. This is because all of its pupils are eligible for the UTC, it is one of the lowest rated colleges within ten miles and is only 3.1 miles away from the proposed UTC site. Birkenhead Sixth Form College offers, however, a choice of 32 A-Levels, as well as BTECs, CACHE childcare qualifications and GCSEs. This is a much wider range than the UTC, which offers qualifications related to its specialism of Life Sciences. The college is also above the LA and National average on points per student, one of only two colleges above average in a 10 mile area. The comprehensive subject offer of the college and its good results mean that the impact of the UTC, despite being situated close to the college and appealing to

the same age group, is likely to be mitigated.

36. Knowsley Community College is the only institution within 10 miles to be rated as 'unsatisfactory' by Ofsted. Its Ofsted rating, along with the fact that 60% of its pupils are aged 16-18 and a further 602 pupils are aged 14-16, would suggest that it may be vulnerable to losing pupils to the UTC. The risk to the college is, however, mitigated by it being a fair distance (approximately 7 miles) from the site of the UTC, which is quite a long way for learners to travel in an urban environment.

Institutions where the impact has been assessed as moderate or high

	Ofsted	School capacity	Surplus places	% 5A*-C incl Eng & Maths 2011	Impact Rating
Shorefields School	Good	1046	42.0%	29%	High

37. The impact on Shorefields School has been assessed as likely to be high. The average distance travelled to school in Liverpool is 1.7 miles, and Shorefields School is only 1.8 miles away from the proposed UTC. Combined with attainment well below the national average and significant surplus places, the school is likely to be heavily affected by the opening of the UTC.

38. On 1st June 2012, Shorefields School opened as University Academy, sponsored by the University of Chester Academy Trust (UCAT). The Department invested approximately £70,000 in minimal Environmental Improvement works. When it opened as an Academy, the overall pupil capacity was reduced from 1046 to 900, to mitigate the impact of their very high percentage of surplus places. The head teacher, who Ofsted judged to be an Outstanding leader, is also beginning to make an impact on the school. While these changes mark a new phase for the school, and UCAT have experience with three other Academies, it will take time to secure serious improvements. In the meantime, this Academy will be very vulnerable to losing pupils to the UTC, which may impact on its viability and capacity to improve.

39. The University Academy is also likely to lose pupils to Liverpool College, which is in the process of becoming an Academy in September 2013. Liverpool College is an independent school for boy and girls aged 3-18, which is 2 miles away. The proposal to convert to an Academy of 1126 pupils (350 pupils bigger than the current independent provision), has been approved by DfE. This means that Liverpool College will, as an Academy, offer state funded places, increase in size and build on the success of the Outstanding provision at the College. The growth, removal of fees and reputation of the current College means that local schools are likely to lose pupils to the Academy when it opens. Shorefields may lose pupils to Liverpool College directly, or because its pupils move to better performing schools with spare places due to pupils moving to the new Academy.

40. The introduction of the new sponsor, the capability of the head teacher and the recognition by Ofsted that the school is doing a Good job in its challenging local context (Free School Meal eligibility was 74.5% in 2011) suggests that the Academy has the capacity to improve in the coming years. The introduction of the UTC may also cause it to improve more quickly in order to compete for pupils. If this is the case, any short term loss of pupils to UTC is likely to be

mitigated by its drive for improvement and increased competition for pupils. However, the fact remains that this Academy is likely to be vulnerable in its first years of operation, and will be affected by the opening of the UTC.

Conclusion

41. With its Merseyside-wide catchment area, the UTC will operate across a region of approximately 100,000 pupils. As a result, the effect of the UTC on schools in this area is likely to be spread across a large number of institutions. This reduces the impact of the UTC on individual schools, and their ability to improve or remain viable. For colleges that also deliver courses to pupils outside the UTC's age range, the effect of the UTC will be further reduced. We have also judged that the UTC will not threaten the viability of the new institutions being planned in Merseyside because of its distinct offer, including the curriculum, specialism and technical focus.
42. Of the 15 closest maintained schools, many are single-sex schools, schools with a religious character or both. The UTC is unlikely to appeal to parents or students who made their school selection on the basis of either of these characteristics, so it is unlikely that these schools are likely to lose a significant proportion of pupils to the UTC. The location of the Mersey River also reduces the likely impact of the UTC on schools across the water as we understand that many pupils would not choose to cross the river to attend school.
43. We have judged that the new UTC is likely to have a minimal impact on the colleges within a 10mile radius and a minimal impact on 14 of the closest 15 secondary schools. We have also judged that there is likely to be a high impact on University Academy (formerly Shorefields School). This Academy is very likely to lose pupils to the UTC. Since its conversion to Academy status, and given the experience of the Academy Sponsor and outstanding head teacher there is real potential for the impact of the UTC to be mitigated. The improvements secured at the new Academy should ensure that both the existing school and new UTC are able to co-exist and provide different, and successful, options for the young people of Liverpool. As a result, this assessment concludes that, in terms of the possible impact of the proposed UTC, it is appropriate for the Secretary of State to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Academy Trust of the Liverpool Life Sciences UTC.