

Title: Bristol Technology and Engineering Academy

Author: Department for Education (DfE)

Approved in May 2012, 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 additional school is (or is proposed to be) situated.

Background

2. Bristol Technology and Engineering Academy is a 14-19 University Technical College. It plans to open in September 2013 for 120 pupils at Key Stage 4 and 75 pupils at Key Stage 5. By September 2016 the UTC expects to be at full capacity with 240 pupils at Key Stage 4 and 200 pupils at Key Stage 5. The UTC will open at New Road, Stoke Gifford, BS34 8SF. This site is located in the North of Bristol, adjacent to the City of Bristol College Engineering centre and close to the University of the West of England (UWE) campus. The UTC specialisms will be engineering and environmental technology.

3. The sponsors are the City of Bristol College, UWE and partner employers GKN, Airbus and Rolls Royce, amongst others. The aims of the UTC include: to develop young people with the aspirations for a successful career in engineering and environmental technologies; and to be a catalyst to raise awareness and improve provision for STEM learning across the region.

Catchment Area and its Characteristics

4. The UTC's catchment area covers the greater Bristol area which includes 4 local authorities (LA): Bristol, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset and Bath and North East Somerset (BaNES), defined by a journey time of 45 minutes.

5. Table 1 below sets out the current and projected forecast pupil numbers in each LA for pupils between the ages of 11-16.

	Table 1: Basic Need for Secondary School Places			
	Total Capacity (2010/11)	% Surplus (2010/11)	Severity of basic need for secondary school places (2013/14)	Projected increase in secondary school pupil population (2011/12 - 2017/18)
Bristol	20760	13.7%	None	16.8%
Bath and North East Somerset	14041	11.5%	None	-0.2%
North Somerset	13744	6.7%	None	3.3%
South Gloucestershire	21135	13.2%	None	-7.3%

6. There is no evidence of basic need in South Gloucestershire LA (the location of the UTC) as there is currently a 13.2% surplus of places and the secondary population is expected to decrease by a further 7.3% by 2017/18. However, overall, the secondary population is expected to rise in the sub-region over the next few years. In Bristol, the secondary pupil population is expected to increase by 16.8% between 2011/12 and 2017/18 and by 3.3% in North Somerset by 2017/18.

7. In the short term, it is hard to predict whether or not concentrations of students will move from any particular local providers to the UTC. Where there are high numbers of surplus places in a particular institution or where the institution shares similar specialism(s) to the UTC, we may be concerned about viability although such concerns would be offset to an extent by the benefit to the area generally in increasing the scope for educational provision.

8. In the medium/ long term (by 2016/17) the secondary population in the catchment area is projected to rise. 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. Therefore, in the medium/ long term, any impact of the UTC is likely to be mitigated by the projected rise in demand for overall places in the Bristol area, due to this projected increase in the secondary school age population.

9. In the catchment area the average FSM rate in secondary schools in the local area is higher than the national and LA averages. When looking at indices of multiple deprivation (IMD), it is located in the 20% least deprived LSOAs of the country. This drops to the 30% least deprived LSOAs when including neighbouring LSOAs. This data in table 2 below presents a mixed picture of the deprivation in the area. On the one hand the local FSM rate is above average. However, the IMD data shows it is located in an area of below average deprivation.

Table 2: Deprivation statistics of local area			
	Local area	LA	National
Average FSM rate (2011)	16.8%	7.4%	14.6%
	LSOA deciles		Neighbouring LSOAs deciles
Indices of multiple deprivation (IMD) (most deprived is bottom 10%)	80%-90%		70%-80%

10. In the application, the proposers recognise the lack of attainment in the Bristol area, particularly in STEM subjects. They attribute the low attainment levels, at least in part, to the narrow traditional range of the post 16 curriculum in the schools. At 8.8% in Bristol the number of young people Not in Education or Employment (NEET) is high and the number of 18 year olds classified as NEET is higher and is increasing. The proposers cite one of the key aims of the UTC is to raise aspirations, attainment and routes into employment and HE for young people in the local area.

Local Authority View

11. Views on the UTC were sought from South Gloucestershire Council and City of Bristol Council. Only South Gloucestershire Council responded. They are supportive of Bristol UTC as they believe it will broaden the range of opportunities and choice for students in the area, particularly at post 16. However, they did raise

the concern that the UTC will provide an additional 600 places in the secondary sector at a time when there is significant surplus across secondary schools in the local area. They recognise that the UTC has taken steps to minimise the impact on any one establishment. For example, the defined catchment area is wide - including the four LAs of Bristol, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset and BaNES and the admissions policy has been designed to ensure, as far as possible, that the UTC does not have a detrimental impact on numbers at local schools and gives opportunities to young people from as wide an area as possible. The Council are satisfied that these steps will minimise the impact on individual schools.

Representations

12. No direct representations have been received by the Department, but consultation has been carried out by the Academy Trust. The UTC Trust have completed a formal consultation exercise (which fulfils the duty upon them in the Academies Act 2010) to determine whether they should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Department for Education. The consultation took place between the 12 March and 15 June and comprised of a public meeting, a consultation brochure and questionnaire also available on the UTC's website, letters to key stakeholders, promotion in the local community and press adverts in local free newspapers. The public consultation meeting took place on Monday 26 March at Bristol City Council Houses. The Trust answered the questions raised during the consultation process and have formally resolved to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State to operate the UTC.

13. Responses to the proposals for the UTC have been mostly supportive and positive. Local and regional public opinion is in favour of the UTC, its vision and potential for improving the life chances of students in the region.

14. The strongest concern about the UTC proposals came from [REDACTED] Abbeywood Community School who is concerned about the impact on his/her school's roll. Since this concern was raised during the consultation the UTC Trust have adapted their engagement strategy and development plans to address the concerns of Abbeywood Community School. For example, a meeting has been held with them to explore partnership opportunities. A further meeting is also planned with representatives from the school and South Gloucestershire Council to look at how opportunities across the two institutions can be maximised in terms of sharing resources to enable true partnership working.

Impact on secondary schools

15. Bristol UTC expects to draw students from a wide catchment area, spanning four LAs. The table below 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 expected catchment area travel less than 5 miles to their school. The average distance travelled by secondary school pupils in South Gloucestershire, which is where the UTC will be based, is 1.7 miles. Of the LAs in Bristol UTC's catchment area, South Gloucestershire has the largest proportion of secondary school pupils who travel more than 6 miles to their school, but this still means that the average distance travelled by 95% of secondary school pupils in South Gloucestershire is less than 6 miles.

	Average distance travelled by secondary school pupils	Farthest distance travelled by 80% of secondary school pupils	Number of secondary school pupils travelling more than 6 miles to school	Proportion of secondary school pupils travelling more than 6 miles to school
Bristol	1.6 miles	2.5 miles	540	3.0%
Bath and North East Somerset	1.8 miles	3 miles	153	1.9%
North Somerset	1.8 miles	3 miles	422	3.9%
South Gloucestershire	1.7 miles	2.5 miles	771	5.0%

16. Taking into account on one hand the small number of secondary school pupils who travel 6 miles or more to their school and on the other hand the UTC's intention 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.

Admissions

17. The UTC's admissions policy is fully compliant with the School Admissions Code. The UTC have opted out of the LA co-ordination of admissions arrangements and will manage this itself in academic year 2013/14. In subsequent years the UTC will become part of the LA co-ordinated admissions arrangements.

18. Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admissions number for either specialism choice, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below. This has been designed so as not to destabilise existing schools in the local area. After the admission of students with statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN) where the UTC is named on the statement, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

- a) Looked After Children and previously looked after children;
- b) Remaining places will be allocated randomly within each area as follows:
 - a. 30% of places allocated to applicants within Area 1 (North) which will include all postcodes in:
 - i. BS6, BS7, BS9, BS10, BS11, BS32, BS34, BS35, BS36, BS37;
 - ii. GL9, GL10, GL11, GL12, GL13
 - b. 30% of places allocated to applicants within Area 2 (East) which will include all postcodes in:
 - i. BS5, BS13, BS14, BS15, BS16, BS30, BS31;
 - ii. BA1, BA2, BA15;
 - iii. SN13, SN14.
 - c. 30% of places allocated to applicants within Area 3 (South) which will include all postcodes in:
 - i. BS1, BS2, BS3, BS4, BS8, BS20, BS21, BS39, BS40, BS41, BS48, BS49;
 - ii. BA3.

Impact on secondary schools in the local area

19. 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).

Table 4 below shows the impact on secondary schools within a ten mile radius:

Table 4: Schools within a ten mile radius						
School name	Distance from UTC site (miles)	Ofsted	School capacity	Surplus places (%)	% 5A*-C incl Eng & Maths 2011	Impact Rating
Abbeywood Community School	0.09 miles	Inadequate	1,217	32%	41%	High
Orchard School	1.46 miles	Satisfactory	992	20%	36%	High
Bradley Stoke Community School	1.75 miles	Outstanding	1,076	4%	67%	Minimal

Patchway Community College	2.09 miles	Satisfactory	1,,434	40%	55%	Moderate
The Ridings Federation Winterbourne International Academy	2.21 miles	n/a	1,880	3%	80%	Minimal
Bristol Metropolitan Academy	2.23 miles	n/a	990	48%	39%	Moderate
Fairfield High School	2.63 miles	Satisfactory	1,080	20%	49%	Moderate
Bristol Free School¹	2.67 miles	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Minimal
Downend Comprehensive School	2.91 miles	Satisfactory	1,536	2%	43%	Minimal
Bristol Brunel Academy	3.25 miles	Satisfactory	1,180	14%	41%	Minimal
Henbury School	3.31 miles	Satisfactory	945	14%	46%	Moderate
Colston's Girls' School	3.43 miles	Outstanding	720	27%	94%	Minimal
Redland Green	3.44 miles	Good	1,395	6%	83%	Minimal
The City Academy Bristol	3.56 miles	Good	1,250	9%	33%	Minimal
Mangotsfield School	3.73 miles	Satisfactory	1,404	4%	55%	Minimal

20. Within the local area of the proposed UTC, it is expected that nine schools will feel a minimal impact, four schools will feel a moderate impact and two schools will feel a high impact on the opening of the proposed Free School.

Schools where the impact will be high

21. The schools with a high impact rating are Abbeywood Community and Orchard schools:

- a. **Abbeywood Community School:** This school is smaller than the average secondary school. The school roll has fallen by a fifth since **2008**, although numbers in the sixth form are rising. Most students are of White British heritage and the large majority speak English as their first language. The proportion of students known to be eligible for free school meals is slightly below the national average. The proportion with special educational needs and/or disabilities is half that found nationally; these students' needs include moderate learning difficulties and behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. The proportion of students who have a statement of special

¹ Bristol Free School opened in September 2011. As a result, there is insufficient data to make an assessment of the impact on this school upon the opening of the UTC.

educational needs is more than double that found nationally. The school currently offers specially resourced provision for 20 students with special educational needs relating to speech, language and communication difficulties. The school has been a specialist humanities school since 2009.

- b. This school is located less than the average distance travelled to secondary school in South Gloucestershire (1.7 miles) from the proposed site of the UTC so in principle they are likely to lose more pupils to the new UTC than schools further away. It has an inadequate Ofsted rating and is due to be converted to a sponsored academy on 1/1/2013. As the attainment is well below the national average parents/pupils may be attracted to an alternative. As set out in paragraph 13, Abbeywood Community School articulated their concerns about the potential impact on schools rolls during the UTC's statutory consultation exercise. As a result, the UTC Trust has adapted their engagement strategy and development plans to address the concerns of the school.
- c. **Orchard School:** This school is below average in size and serves the surrounding urban area. Most students are of White British heritage, with broadly average proportions from minority ethnic backgrounds and of those who speak English as an additional language. The proportion of students with special educational needs and/or disabilities, including those with a statement of special educational needs, and the percentage known to be eligible for free school meals are above average. A higher than average number of students, join or leave the school at times other than the usual points in Years 7 and 11. The school has specialist status for English and modern foreign languages.
- d. This school is also located less than the average distance travelled to secondary school in South Gloucestershire (1.7 miles) from the proposed site of the UTC so in principal they are also likely to lose more pupils to the new UTC than schools further away. It has a satisfactory Ofsted rating and is due to be converted to a sponsored academy on 1/9/2012. As the attainment is well below the national average and only a satisfactory Ofsted rating, parents/pupils may be attracted to an alternative school.

22. Both schools were undersubscribed for entry in 2010/2011 and have an existing surplus of places of above 15% of total capacity. The loss of even a few pupils could exacerbate the existing surplus issues in these schools and there could be a significant impact on the school's overall attainment, viability and ability to improve. Furthermore, officials would only expect the impact on the Abbeywood and Orchard Schools to be a potential concern in the short term because the secondary school aged population is projected to increase over the next few years in the sub-region. Therefore any potential negative impact should be mitigated by an increased demand for secondary school places in the local area in the long term.

Schools where the impact will be moderate

23. Table 4 shows that the opening of Bristol UTC is expected to have a moderate impact on four schools: Patchway Community College, Henbury College, Bristol Metropolitan Academy and Fairfield High 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.

24. The only Academy is 11-19 Bristol Metropolitan Academy (2.23 miles from the UTC). It was built under the Building Schools for the Future programme. It achieves 39% average A* to C grades at GCSE so officials judge that it is feasible that some pupils at the schools may see the UTC as an attractive alternative.

25. Over the long term, the anticipated rise in the secondary population in the catchment area suggests that the majority of schools face no threat to their longer-term viability from the establishment of the UTC. The reduction of a small number of pupils is unlikely to be detrimental when a school is operating near or at capacity. A caveat is that some schools may find it difficult to replace pupils if they choose to move to the UTC at the end of year nine.

Other secondary schools where the impact will be minimal

26. For most of the remaining schools that meet the criteria for assessment, officials judge the impact will be minimal. The reasons are as follows:

- Overall, in the medium/long term the secondary population is expected to increase, creating demand for additional places.
- The UTC is offering a unique curriculum targeting specific groups of pupils.
- South Gloucestershire Council is supporting the UTC and will help coordinate admissions (from the second year) so they should ensure that there is no adverse impact on any one school.

Impact on post-16 and FE Colleges

27. It is expected that the impact will be minimal on the three colleges within a ten mile radius of the proposed UTC. Filton and City of Bristol colleges are large providers, are rated as good by Ofsted and have a sizeable adult (18+) student population so even if they did lose some pupils to the new UTC we would not expect this to affect the long-term viability of the colleges.

College name	Ofsted	Number of learners aged 16-18	Proportion of learners aged 16-18	Average Point Score per student	Impact Rating
Filton College	Good	2,846	48%	650.3	Minimal
City of Bristol College	Good	6,001	45%	600.8	Minimal
St Brendan's Sixth Form College	Good	1,644	100%	702.5	Minimal

Source: Achievement and Attainment Tables, DFE Website, Ofsted, YPLA

28. St Brendan's Sixth Form College is a medium sized college, with close to average attainment and a good Ofsted rating, which should make it attractive to prospective students. Additionally it is a Sixth Form college so is likely to have a

strong academic focus whereas a UTC has a more technical focus. It is therefore expected that the loss of potential students to the new UTC will be limited and we do not expect the opening of this UTC to affect the long-term viability of this college.

29. It is worth noting that City of Bristol College is the lead sponsor for the UTC and as such can be expected to develop a mutually beneficial partnership with the UTC. As there is some overlap between the UTC's and the college's curriculum offer, the college is already planning to share staff and facilities with the UTC. We do not expect the UTC to significantly impact the long-term financial viability of the college. The impact of the opening of the UTC has therefore been assessed as minimal.

Impact on Primary schools, Special Schools and Alternative Provision

30. Bristol UTC will be a school admitting pupils in the age range 14-19. It will have no specialist SEN provision, but will work to accommodate the needs of pupils where the school is named in their statement of SEN. As such it is unlikely to have any direct impact on local Special Schools and alternative provision schools in the area. Furthermore, given that students will join the UTC at age 14, it will not have feeder primary schools in the same way as other secondary-level education providers, and so the impact on primary schools in the area will be negligible.

Conclusion

31. Bristol UTC's catchment area is wide, extending into 4 LAs and so this 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 each lose a few pupils to the new UTC.

32. As described above, for two secondary schools, there may be a more significant loss of pupils as a result of the UTC opening. These schools tend to have large existing numbers of surplus places, and/or low attainment and low Ofsted ratings, putting them at a higher general risk of losing pupils to a new provider. However, it is difficult to predict robustly which pupils will be attracted to the UTC and therefore which specific schools will be most affected. Given the growing population of 11-18 year olds in the catchment area in the long run, for the majority of schools and colleges any impact of the UTC is likely to be mitigated by the projected rise in demand for overall places in the area.

33. The further education and sixth form colleges in the wide UTC catchment area offer large scale, diverse provision. We do not therefore expect that the loss of any potential students to the UTC will pose a significant threat to their overall viability. However, it is hard to predict whether or not concentrations of students will move from particular providers to the UTC. If this were to happen, it may not affect the viability of providers but poses the risk that they need to close down courses or Departments.

34. Overall officials judge the impact of the opening of the UTC on the majority of secondary schools and colleges will be minimal as the unique nature of the provision and specialisms will ensure that there is little direct competition. The UTC will be relatively small, with 440 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.

35. 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. Taking all of the above into account and considering the possible impact of Bristol 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.