

Title: The UTC for New Technologies at Daventry

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 institution is (or is proposed to be) situated.

Background

2. The University Technical College for New Technologies at Daventry (DUTC) is a 14-19, co-educational, non-faith UTC. The UTC plans to build towards its capacity of 600 places by 2016, with intake of 120 students into Year 10 and 80 students into Year 12 in the first year of operation. The UTC will open in a purpose built site which will reflect its specialism – sustainable new technologies.
3. The proposer group consists of Moulton College (FE College, co-ordinating sponsor), Northampton University (co-sponsor), Cummins Ltd (employer sponsor) and Landex Ltd (a subscriber organisation for provision of education and training in land based occupations). The UTC also has strong support from Northamptonshire County Council, Daventry District Council and wide range of employers within the sustainable and new technologies sector.

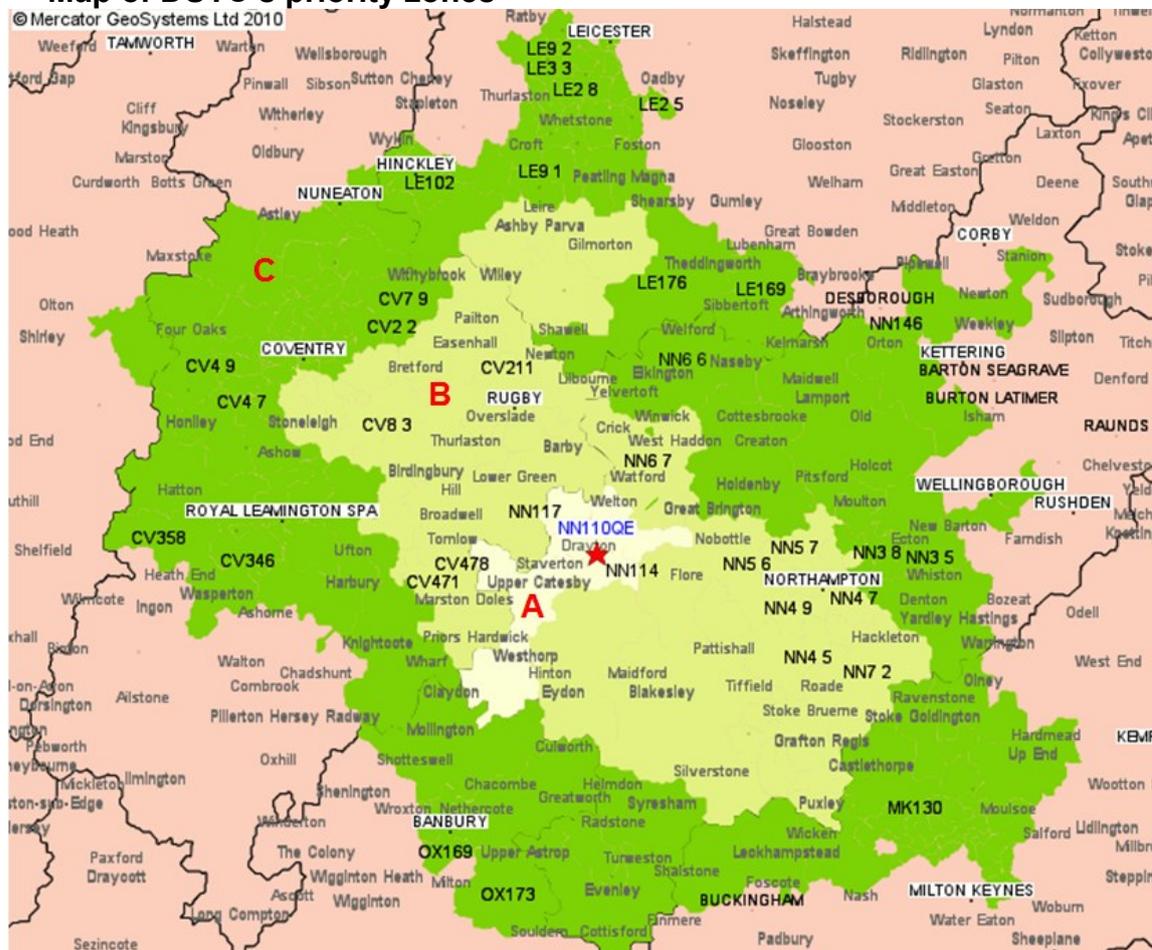
Admissions

4. The UTC's admissions policy is fully compliant with the School Admissions Code. DUTC will take part in admissions forum set up by Northamptonshire County Council local authority and have regard to its advice; and will participate in the co-ordinated admissions arrangements operated by the LA and local Fair Access Protocol. DUTC will also work in close partnership with the various local authorities in the identified catchment area to ensure that admissions are compliant with the School Admissions code.
5. Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published pupil admissions number, after the admission of students with statements of SEN where DUTC is named on the statement, the following criteria will be applied in the below order:
 - a. Children in public care (looked after children)
 - b. Children residing in the priority zone¹ of the catchment area in the following percentages:
 - Zone A - 33% of the remaining places by random allocation
 - Zone B - 33% of the remaining places by random allocation

¹ Priority zones within the catchment area have been determined based on travel to learn time and the number of schools so as not to destabilise existing schools in the Daventry area.

- Zone C - 34% of the remaining places by random allocation
- c. Children residing outside the priority zones with priority being given to those living nearest to the DUTC as measured in a straight line from the applicants home address to the front gates of the DUTC using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system.

Map of DUTC's priority zones



★ DUTC A: 0-15 min drive time B: 15-30 min drive time C: 30-40 min drive time

6. If there are the same number or fewer applicants from any zone than places available, then all applicants will be offered a place. Any unfilled zone places will be distributed to those applicants who live in other zones using random allocation.
7. Should there be a need for a tie breaker the decision will be made by independently verified random selection to determine who is offered a place if a zone is oversubscribed. Criterion c) above will not come into operation until all applicants who live in the priority zones have been offered places.
8. Applications from 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.
9. If DUTC is unable to distinguish between applicants on the basis of distance under criterion c) (because they are children who are as a result of multiple birth

or live in the same block of flats) then the child or children who will be offered the available place(s) will be randomly selected.

10. Unsuccessful applicants will have a right of appeal to an independent admission appeals panel.
11. Where in any year the DUTC receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until the end of the Autumn term. Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Where a place becomes vacant it will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

Catchment area and demand

12. The UTC has defined its catchment area as 45 minutes' drive time from Daventry (approximately 20 mile radius). Apart from Northamptonshire LA, the catchment area includes Central Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Leicestershire, Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Warwickshire LAs.
13. Northamptonshire presently has a 13% surplus for state secondary schools. The current surplus in the local area (10 mile radius from the proposed UTC site) is 4%. This indicates that there is currently excess capacity in the system. However, the secondary population in DUTC's catchment area is projected to increase by 10% between 2011/12 and 2017/18. 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.
14. Wider economic analysis undertaken by Northamptonshire County Council and other bodies identifies skills priorities as more technician-level provision, training and multiple technologies, "green skills", and transferable and enterprise skills for young people, including Apprenticeships. DUTC's chosen specialism has the ability to address the skills gap within the engineering, construction and sustainable technology sector in Northamptonshire and the wider economic region, thus satisfying an articulated demand for these specific skills.
15. The proposer group has carried out a consultation with a range of national and multi-national companies with sites in Northamptonshire and the wider economic region. These companies have confirmed that the UTC's proposed specialism strongly resonates 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 current unmet demand within the sustainable and new technologies sector. The UTC's current employer partners include DHL, ProLogis, Cosworth Group, SDC Construction Group Waste Recycling Group and Hi-Force.
16. It could be argued that NEET figures are an indicator of how well the current education system equips students with the skills in demand by employers. The table below shows the NEET figures for the local authorities in DUTC's defined catchment area.

Table 1: Proportion of 16-18 year olds who are NEET

Local Authority	NEET figures 2006	NEET figures 2010
Northamptonshire LA	6.4%	5.2%
Central Bedfordshire LA	Information not available	4.6%
Buckinghamshire LA	3.2%	3.9%
Leicestershire LA	5.5%	3.8%
Milton Keynes LA	6.5%	5.1%
Oxfordshire LA	4.8%	5.9%
Warwickshire LA	6.7%	5.2%
England Average	7.7%	6%

17. Although none of the local authorities have NEET figures which exceed the England average, the table shows that for five of them the NEET figures are very close to the England average. It is worth noting that the two local authorities, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, which had the two lowest NEET figures in 2006 are the only ones who have gone against the general trend and seen a rise in their 2010 NEET figures. One of DUTC stated aims is to provide education for students who will be motivated to achieve greater academic and employment success through exposure to a technical curriculum. DUTC has been cited by local authorities in its catchment area to have the potential to improve both choice and employability for young people. In addition, consultation carried out by DUTC has shown that DUTC curriculum offer has strong appeal to parents and future students.

Local Authority View

18. All local authorities within DUTC's catchment area were invited to provide their view on the proposed UTC. Responses were received from Leicestershire LA, Milton Keynes LA, Northamptonshire LA and Warwickshire LA.

19. All responses were in favour of establishing DUTC. The local authorities highlighted increase in choice, diversity in the education provision and improvement in employment outcomes for young people as being some of the key benefits of opening DUTC.

20. It is also worth noting that Northamptonshire County Council is acting as the procurer of the works for the building of DUTC, and Daventry District Council has provided the land for the UTC on a 125 year peppercorn lease.

Representations

21. No direct representations have been received by the Department but a public consultation was conducted by the proposer group. The consultation ran from 9 February to 16 March 2012. As part of the consultation the proposer group wrote to 347 schools and education providers within DUTC's defined catchment area.

E-mails with an electronic questionnaire were sent to each of the local authorities in the catchment area and letters were sent to 278 councillors. The questionnaire was also made available online for the general public to respond to. One public meeting and a Headteacher Forum was also held as part of the consultation.

22. A total of 145 responses were received to the questionnaire, out of which 141 were in support of the UTC and 4 against. Some of the opposition was related to a now resolved issue to do with the land allocated for the UTC. Friends of Daventry Open Spaces (FODOS) put forward a planning objection claiming that the development of land for housing and educational purposes, including the UTC, should be protected as village green. FODOS later withdrew the Village Green application.

23. The proposer group held a public meeting on 20 February which had 81 attendees. The attendees were a mixture of sponsor representatives, district and county councillors, local employers, local residents, prospective parents and students, local school governors and BBC Radio Northampton. There was no objection raised at this meeting to the opening of the UTC and the proposer group received statements of support from some of the attendees. The Headteacher Forum was held on 14 March and had 17 attendees which included headteachers from local schools, other school representatives and local government representatives. There was no objection raised at the forum to the opening of the UTC and one headteacher proposed to develop a close partnership with DUTC.

Impact on secondary schools

24. To estimate the extent of impact, we have excluded 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:

- 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.
- 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).

25. DUTC has a defined catchment area of 20 miles radius. 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 within the UTC's catchment area travel less than 5 miles to their school. Buckinghamshire has the largest proportion, 22.3%, of secondary school pupils who travel more than 5 miles to their school. The average distance travelled by secondary school pupils in Northamptonshire, which is where the UTC will be based, is 2.1 miles.

Table 2: Distance travelled by secondary school pupils

Local Authority	Average distance travelled by secondary school pupils	Farthest distance travelled by 80% of secondary school pupils	Number of secondary school pupils travelling more	Proportion of secondary school

			than 5 miles to school	pupils travelling more than 5 miles to school
Northamptonshire	2.1 miles	3.5 miles	4267	10.2%
Central Bedfordshire	1.6 miles	3 miles	1155	5.3%
Buckinghamshire	3.2 miles	more than 5 miles	7584	22.3%
Leicestershire	2.2 miles	4 miles	4958	10.9%
Milton Keynes	1.5 miles	2.5 miles	847	5.5%
Oxfordshire	2.3 miles	4 miles	3697	10.6%
Warwickshire	2.4 miles	4 miles	4411	13.0%

26. Taking into account on one hand the small number of secondary school pupils who travel 5 miles or more to their school and on the other hand DUTC'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. Below is a discussion of the likely impact on these schools.

Table 3: Schools within the local area (ten mile radius)					
School name	Distance from UTC site (miles)	School capacity	Proportion of surplus places	% 5A*-C incl Eng & Maths 2011	Impact Rating
William Parker School A Specialist Humanities College	0.43	1200	23%	37%	High
Danetre School	0.44	1200	17%	59%	Moderate
Ashlawn School	7.43	1508	-10%	67%	Minimal
Campion School	7.44	1455	0%	68%	Minimal
Rugby High School	8.44	762	2%	99%	Minimal
Harris School	8.6	910	3%	58%	Minimal
The Duston School	8.63	1457	13%	44%	Minimal
Lawrence Sheriff School	8.76	926	-5%	100%	Minimal
Guilsborough School	8.88	1412	2%	71%	Minimal
The Avon Valley School and Performing Arts College	9.96	1100	0%	39%	Minimal

Schools where the impact has been assessed as minimal

27. Table 3 shows that the opening of DUTC will have a minimal impact on eight schools. 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 will not significantly impact on the schools' overall attainment, viability and ability to improve.

School where the impact is assessed as moderate

28. Table 3 shows that the opening of DUTC is expected to have a moderate impact on one 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.

Danetre school

29. Danetre school has recently become a sponsored academy. It is located 0.44 miles from the proposed UTC site and has a capacity of 1200 students. There was a surplus capacity in this school of 17% in 2011/12. In 2011, 59% of the school's pupils achieved 5+ A* to C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths, which was above both the LA and national average. This also represented an improvement of 5% in the school's 2010 attainment levels. The school was rated as satisfactory with good capacity for sustained improvement by Ofsted in December 2010.

30. The distance between the UTC site and Danetre school is below the average distance travelled by secondary school pupils in Northamptonshire LA. This in combination with the Danetre school being rated as satisfactory by Ofsted may result in potential parents/pupils being attracted by an alternative. However, the fact that the school has become a sponsored academy (since April 2012) should add to its capacity to improve and attract students in the future. Although, there is some overlap between Danetre school's curriculum offer and that of the UTC, the differences in the curriculum offer and delivery are substantial enough for each provider to have its unique appeal to potential students. We would not expect the school to lose a significant number of potential pupils to the UTC, and therefore not expect DUTC to affect the long term financial viability of the school. Additionally, any loss of pupils to DUTC may be mitigated by the increase in demand for secondary places in the longer term. The impact of the opening of DUTC has therefore been assessed as moderate.

School where the impact is assessed as high

31. Table 3 shows that the opening of DUTC will have a high impact on one school. A high rating implies that the school may lose some pupils and may exacerbate surplus capacity already in the school. There may be a significant impact on the school's overall attainment, viability and ability to improve.

William Parker School – A specialist humanities college

32. William Parker School is a community secondary school. The school is located 0.43 miles from the proposed UTC site and the age range of the school's pupils is 11-18. The school is part of the Daventry Learning Partnership which is a partnership between local schools and colleges with the aim to develop post-16 education locally.

33. The school has a capacity of 1200. In 2011 the school had a surplus capacity of 23% and it was significantly undersubscribed for entry into year seven. Of the current cohort 15.7% are eligible for and claiming Free School Meals (FSM) which is higher than both the LA and the national average of 11.1% and 14.6% respectively. Only 5.3% of the school's pupils do not have English as their first language and 2.9% of its pupils have statements of SEN.

34. In 2011, 37% of the school's pupils achieved 5+ A* to C GCSEs (or equivalent)

including English and maths which is well below the LA of 55% and national average of 57.9%. This also represented a continuation of a three year trend of decline in the school's attainment levels. Only 52% of the school's pupils make the expected levels of progression in maths, which is below the national average of 66%, and 50% of pupils make the expected levels of progress in English which is also below the national average of 74%.

35. The school was rated as inadequate and was given a notice to improve by Ofsted in November 2011. In December 2011, the Department received an Expression of Interest for a 1200 place 11-18 Academy to replace William Parker School in Daventry, this was approved and the academy is expected to open in September 2012. The Academy Sponsor, EACT, has a proven track record of supporting underperforming schools. The organisation currently sponsors 11 open Academies and more recently submitted proposals to open Free Schools.

36. The distance between William Parker school and the UTC site is below the average distance travelled to school by secondary aged pupils in Northamptonshire, so in principle is more likely to lose more pupils to the UTC than schools further away. Additionally, it has significantly below average attainment and inadequate Ofsted rating which could make the argument for parents/students to look for an alternative stronger. Whilst becoming a Sponsored Academy may make the school more attractive to parents, the Sponsored Academy will inherit the large surplus capacity that already exists in the school, meaning that the loss of even a few additional pupils to the new UTC could impact on its long-term viability. In addition, due to the current reputation of the school the establishment of the UTC may make it difficult for the Sponsored Academy to retain pupils until it has re-established its reputation. However, EACT have engaged with the UTC and intends to share outdoor sports facilities and playing fields with DUTC, which indicates that EACT sees a potential for the working in partnership with DUTC.

37. Taking into account everything we know about William Parker school, overall our assessment is that the impact of establishing DUTC would be high.

Impact on sixth form colleges and FE colleges

38. There were no colleges within ten miles of the UTC. We have therefore assessed the impact of opening DUTC on all colleges with 20 mile radius. Within a 20 mile radius, there are five colleges, all of which are FE colleges (there are no sixth form colleges).

Table 3: Colleges within the local area (ten mile radius)					
College name	Ofsted	Number of learners aged 16-18	Proportion of learners aged 16-18	Average Point Score per student	Impact Rating
Moulton College	Outstanding	2,291	43%	638.1	Minimal
Northampton College	Satisfactory	3,984	59%	462.4	Minimal

Warwickshire College	Outstanding	3,700 ²	27%	655.8	Minimal
Henley College Coventry	Satisfactory	1,444	49%	417.3	Minimal
City College Coventry	Satisfactory	2,287 ³	55%	599.2	Minimal

39. For attainment at level three, all perform below the LA and national averages. Moulton College and Warwickshire College are rated outstanding but the other three colleges are rated as satisfactory by Ofsted.

40. These colleges are large providers and have a sizeable adult (18+) student population, so even if they did lose some pupils to the new UTC we do not expect this to affect the long-term viability of any of the colleges. Furthermore, there is a minimal overlap between qualifications offered by these colleges and the specialisms of DUTC. The opening of DUTC is therefore assessed as being minimal on all colleges within a twenty mile radius of the UTC site.

Impact on Free Schools, Studio Schools and other UTCs

41. There are no Studio Schools or UTCs within 10 miles of the proposed site for DUTC. Whilst there is one Free School (Priors Free School) located at 9.2 miles distance from the proposed site for DUTC, as it is a primary school here is no overlap in age group between the school and DUTC. We do not expect DUTC to have an impact on the Free School's financial viability.

42. Within DUTC's defined catchment area, there is currently a UTC in pre-opening stage – Silverstone UTC. Silverstone UTC is planned for opening in September 2013 and will be specialising in engineering and hospitality. Silverstone UTC's proposed site is located 17.1 miles distance from DUTC's proposed site, which is well above the average distance travelled by secondary school pupils in Northamptonshire. Although there is a level of overlap in the two UTC's catchment area, the substantial difference in the curriculum offer of the two providers mean that each provider should have its own appeal to future students. Furthermore, Northamptonshire LA is in support of both UTCs and the University of Northamptonshire is co-sponsor for both. We assess the impact of the opening of DUTC to be minimal on Silverstone UTC.

Conclusion

43. The impact on the majority of secondary schools and all colleges will be minimal as the UTC's unique nature of provision and specialisms 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, 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.

44. 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. Any negative impact on existing providers needs to be

² Figures on the number of learners were not available from EFA for these colleges. Instead, these figures have been taken from the colleges' latest Ofsted reports which may be a few years out of date. These figures are therefore only estimates.

balanced against the likely benefits the UTC proposal will have in addressing the demand for high quality technical education. All seven LAs within the UTC's defined catchment area are supportive of the UTC for these reasons.