

**Title: UTC, Royal Greenwich**  
**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 be on maintained schools, Academies, institutions within the further education sector and alternative provision in the area in which the additional school is (or is proposed to be) situated.

### **Background**

2. UTC, Royal Greenwich is a 14-19 university technical college. It plans to open with an intake of 150 Year 10 and 150 Year 12 students with a further 150 in Year 10 and 150 in Year 12 the following year when it will reach capacity. The UTC will open on Ferranti Close, off Woolwich Road in the Westminster Industrial Estate. The UTC specialisms will be engineering and construction with underpinning themes of transport and new green technologies.
3. The sponsors are the University of Greenwich, Greenwich Council, Transport for London and Wates. The UTC pledges to provide every student who successfully completes their studies with a further or higher education place; an apprenticeship; or an employment opportunity in an industry-relevant job.

### **Catchment Area and its Characteristics**

4. The UTC's catchment area covers 8 LA areas: Greenwich, Bexley, Lewisham, Barking and Dagenham, Newham, Redbridge, Southwark and Tower Hamlets.
5. Within these 8 LA areas there are:
  - 113 state secondary schools, of which 81 are LA maintained and 32 are Academies
  - 13 Further Education and Sixth Form Colleges
  - 72 schools which have a sixth form

### The number of maintained mainstream schools and FE colleges by LA within the UTC's catchment area

LA	LA Maintained Schools	Academies <sup>1</sup>	All secondary schools	Number of Schools with a Sixth Form	Number of Further Education (FE) Colleges and SFCs
Greenwich	10	2	12	7	2

<sup>1</sup> The number of academies is increasing each month. This was correct on 1/11/2011.

Bexley	5	11	16	12	1
Lewisham	10	3	13	5	3
Barking & Dagenham	9	0	9	9	1
Newham	13	2	15	2	2
Redbridge	14	3	17	17	1
Southwark	5	11	16	11	1
Tower Hamlets	15	0	15	9	2
TOTAL	81	32	113	72	13

Source: Edubase and “All open academies”

6. The table below sets out the current and projected forecast pupil numbers in each LA for pupils between the ages of 11-18. It shows that the 11-18 year old population across all eight boroughs was around 129,261 in 2010/11.
7. With the exception of Bexley LA, which is projected to see a decrease in the number of secondary pupils over the next few years, all of the LAs face severe pressure for places. By 2017-18, the number of secondary school pupils in the eight LAs is set to increase by approximately 18,139 (13.8%) from its 2010 level<sup>2</sup>. However, this overall figure masks substantial variations between LAs. The secondary school population in Greenwich, for example, is projected to increase by 8.6% between 2010 and 2017-18. The equivalent figure for Barking and Dagenham is 32%. Bexley faces a fall in the secondary school population of 0.9%.

Number of pupils, projections and surplus / deficit in LAs:

		Academic year 2011-12		Academic year 2017-18	
LA	Number of pupils in 2010	No of pupils	% Forecast increase/decrease	No of pupils	% Forecast increase/decrease
Greenwich	14,352	13,342	-7.0	15,580	8.6
Bexley	19,488	19,265	-1.1	19,315	-0.9
Lewisham	13,147	13,652	3.8	15,819	20.3
Barking & Dagenham	13,455	13,712	1.9	17,759	32.0
Newham	18,899	18,585	-1.7	20,870	10.4
Redbridge	22,043	21,960	-0.4	24,993	13.4
Southwark	12,933	13,512	4.5	15,151	17.1
Tower Hamlets	14,944	14,871	-0.5	17,551	17.4
Total	129,261	128,899	-0.3	147,038	13.8

<sup>2</sup> SCAP data 2011 – the projection assumes no increase in capacity.

Note and source: The figures in this table do not include, Sixth Form Colleges or Further Education Colleges and are based on the 2011 SCAP data and covers 11 – 18 year olds in maintained secondary schools.

8. Given the growing population of 11-18 year olds in the catchment area, 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. However, it is hard to predict whether or not concentrations of students will move from any particular 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.

### **Local Authority View**

9. Greenwich Council are a sponsor of the UTC and totally supportive of it. The Council has purchased the site for the UTC and is working with it to build close working relationships with partner schools and support the transition of students into the UTC.

### **Representations**

10. No direct representations have been received by the Department, but consultation had been carried out by the sponsors and subsequently the UTC. The Sponsors carried out further consultation between 27 June 2011 and 23 September 2011 and for a further two weeks in December 2011 once the Trust had been formally established. The consultation activity involved extensive distribution of consultation leaflets and questionnaires; online advertising via Facebook; meetings with local head teachers, who were largely supportive; and meetings with Greenwich Community College and the Bexley 14-19 Forum. A public consultation drop-in session was held at Charlton Athletic Football Club on 13 July 2011.
11. The vast majority of responses were positive about the project. The only formal negative response was from Greenwich Community College, which expressed displeasure at not being included as a partner for the UTC and concern about the potential impact on the College rolls. The College asked that the UTC consider allowing it to be represented on its Governing Body and the Trust have agreed to consider this once the GB is constituted.

### **Impact on secondary schools**

12. The average distance travelled to secondary school in Greenwich is 1.8 miles. The furthest distance travelled to secondary school by a significant majority (80%) of pupils in Greenwich is 3 miles. Given the wider intended catchment of the UTC, however, we have assessed the impact on all secondary schools within a ten mile radius of the UTC. 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.

13. Given the UTC's wide catchment area and relatively small size in comparison to other secondary schools, there are two broad types of impact we might expect on secondary schools:

- a) A diffuse impact, whereby a large number of secondary schools each lose only a few of pupils to the UTC.
- b) A school performance, or specialism-related, impact in which a small number of schools experience a more significant loss of pupils to the UTC.

14. The shortage of secondary school places in the catchment area suggests that the majority of schools face no threat to their longer-term viability (i.e. up until 2017-18, which is the final year we have pupil projections for at present) 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. We can be confident, therefore, that the average effect outlined in (a) above is likely to apply in most cases and the UTC is unlikely to pose a threat to the viability of most neighbouring secondary schools. 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.

15. To estimate the extent of impact (b), we have excluded specific types of school which we assume will remain relatively unaffected (i.e. they fall into the first category of impact). We excluded schools based on the following assumptions (which we believe will generally be the case, if not for every pupil):

- Faith schools – many parents choose these schools because they want a school which has an emphasis on observing a particular religious faith. This is not on offer at the UTC so we would expect the loss of pupils from faith schools to the UTC to be minimal.
- Schools with high attainment – although these schools may lose some pupils to the UTC, most of these pupils are expected to follow a traditional academic route and any impact should be minimal as these schools tend to be significantly oversubscribed.
- Schools outside the priority catchment areas of Greenwich, Lewisham and Bexley.
- Alternative providers were excluded due to the substantial difference of offer between an alternative provider and a UTC. We expect the potential impact on these providers to be minimal.

16. This leaves 10 secondary schools which we have assessed individually:

School name (and type)	Distance from UTC (miles)	LA	Impact rating	Capacity	Pupils on roll	2011 % 5 A*C GCSE inc Eng and maths
Plumstead Manor / Negus School (Community Girls)	1.97	Greenwich	Minimal	1845	1845	59%
The Eltham Foundation School	2.78	Greenwich	Moderate	1200	922	48%
Crown Woods School	2.96	Greenwich	Minimal	1963	1416	32%

School name (and type)	Distance from UTC (miles)	LA	Impact rating	Capacity	Pupils on roll	2011 % 5 A*C GCSE inc Eng and maths
(Community)						
Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys (Community)	3.03	Greenwich	Minimal	1349	1162	67%
Harris Academy Falconwood	3.1	Bexley	Minimal	1150	814	57%
Deptford Green School (Community)	3.31	Lewisham	Moderate	1329	954	54%
Welling School (Academy converter)	3.55	Bexley	Minimal/Moderate	1730	1597	41%
Prendergast - Ladywell Fields College (Community)	4.14	Lewisham	Moderate	1200	818	41%
Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy (Sponsored Academy)	4.51	Lewisham	Minimal	1350	1499	57%
Hurstmere Foundation School for Boys (Academy converter)	4.86	Bexley	Minimal	1065	1038	58%

### Schools where the impact will be moderate

17. The impact of the UTC on the three secondary schools below has been assessed as moderate.

#### **(a) The Eltham Foundation School – Greenwich (2.78 miles from proposed site)**

18. The Eltham Foundation School is a Foundation School with no sixth form. It has capacity for 1200 pupils, around 240 per year group. There was a surplus capacity in this school of around 15% in 2010/11 and it failed to fill nearly half of all its places in year 7 for the year commencing 2010/11. The school was rated as satisfactory by Ofsted in its last inspection in March 2012.

19. 48% of pupils achieved 5+ A\* to C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths in 2011, up from 28% in 2010. This is below the national average of 58%. Compared to the national average, a much lower proportion of pupils in this school made the expected level of progress in Maths while a similar proportion made the expected level of progress in English. 34% of pupils are eligible for Free School Meals, compared to 15% nationally.

20. The school is the second closest school within the catchment area of the UTC. It

would therefore be expected to lose more pupils than schools located in non catchment LAs, and those located further away within catchment LAs. At 2.78 miles away, it is above the average distance travelled in Greenwich which is 1.8 miles. The school has plenty of surplus places and, although Ofsted has said it is improving rapidly, the loss of more pupils may impact on its ability to sustain the improvements. The impact of the opening of the UTC has therefore been assessed as moderate, bearing in mind the fact that Ofsted consider the school to be improving rapidly, have taken it out of special measures and consider it to have some good and outstanding features. It is due to close and reopen as an Academy in September 2012, which may mitigate the impact of the new UTC.

***(b) Deptford Green School – Lewisham (3.31 miles from proposed site)***

21. Deptford Green is a Community school with a new sixth form opening in 2012. The school has capacity for 1,329, around 270 pupils per year group and had a relatively surplus capacity of around 20% in 2010/11 and it failed to fill around 45% of its Year 7 for the year commencing 2010/11. The school was rated as satisfactory by Ofsted in its last inspection in January 2010.
22. 48% of pupils achieved 5+ A\* to C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths in 2011, down from from 54% in 2010. This is lower national average of 58%. Compared to the national average, a similar proportion of pupils in this school made the expected level of progress in English and Maths. 38% of pupils are eligible for FSM compared to 15% in secondary schools nationally.
23. At 3.31 miles away the school is beyond the radius of the average distance travelled in Lewisham which is 1.4 miles so this school could lose fewer pupils than schools closer to the UTC. The school had average results and is rated as satisfactory by Ofsted, so parents of pupils at the end of year nine could decide to send their children to the new UTC. Although just under 45% of year seven places were unfilled in 2011/2012, the school has been through a rebuilding program which may have temporarily disrupted the numbers of pupils taken in to the school. These new buildings are due to be completed in 2012 and together with a new ethos should make the school more attractive. The impact of the opening of the UTC has been assessed as moderate.

***(c) Prendergast – Ladywell Fields College – Lewisham (4.14 miles from proposed site)***

24. Ladywell Fields College is a Community School with no sixth form. The school has capacity for 900 pupils, around 180 pupils per year group and had a surplus of around 15% in 2010/11. It failed to fill around 27% of its year 7 places for the year commencing 2010/11. The school was rated as satisfactory by Ofsted in its last inspection in December 2010.
25. 41% of pupils achieved 5+ A\* to C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths in 2011, up from 29% in 2010. This is well below the national average of 58%. Compared to the national average, a lower proportion in this school made the expected level of progress in English and Maths. 32% of pupils are eligible for FSM compared to 15% in secondary schools nationally.

26. At 4.14 miles away, it is above the average distance travelled in Lewisham which is 1.4 miles. The school had very low results and a satisfactory Ofsted rating, so parents of pupils at the end of year nine could decide to send their children to the new UTC. The school has plenty of surplus places and the new UTC could affect the long term viability of the school. However, Ofsted has said it is improving rapidly and making sustained improvements. The reason for a “moderate” and not a “high” impact rating is it is over four miles away from the UTC so it is unlikely to lose more than a handful of pupils. Currently, less than five per cent of pupils in the LA travel three and a half miles or more in maintained secondary schools. The impact of the UTC has been assessed as moderate.

### **Other secondary schools where the impact will be minimal**

27. For all schools we excluded based on the criteria set out in paragraph [18] (the large majority), we expect the UTC to have a minimal impact. For most of the remaining schools that meet the criteria for assessment, we think the impact will be minimal also. The reasons are as follows:

- Overall, the secondary population is expected to increase, creating demand for additional places.
- The UTC is offering a unique curriculum targeting specific groups of pupils.
- Greenwich Council is supporting the UTC and will help coordinate placements so they should ensure that there is no adverse impact on any one school.
- There is support for the UTC from potential rivals and they claim they are currently working with the UTC to provide a complimentary offer.

### **Impact on post-16 and FE Colleges**

28. Greenwich offers a diverse mix of post-16 provision to students, including school sixth forms, Academies, sixth form colleges, FE colleges and some work-based learning. There are 72 schools with a sixth form and 11 FE and two sixth form colleges within the eight local authorities mentioned as potential catchment areas for the Greenwich UTC.

29. Levels of post-16 attainment in Greenwich have been consistently below the national and regional averages<sup>3</sup>. Attainment data for 2010/11, for example, shows that 43.3% of Greenwich resident learners had achieved Level 3 by age 19, compared with 56.2% in London and 52.0% nationally.

30. Many resident young people choose to study outside of the borough, making Greenwich a net exporter of learners. The most popular alternative destinations to study in are Lewisham and Bexley. Therefore, by aiming to draw 50% of its learners from Greenwich, it is likely that the Greenwich UTC will be competing for pupils not just with colleges in Greenwich, but with colleges in these neighbouring areas too.

31. There are also a number of schools and Academies with sixth forms in the area. However, it is unlikely that high-performing schools or Academies with sixth forms

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<sup>3</sup> YPLA ‘16-19 Overview: Greenwich – attainment and progression’, May 2011.

will compete directly with the proposed UTC for post-16 students – provisional data shows that in 2010/11 only 2% of total learning aims in Academies and school sixth forms in Greenwich are in Construction or Engineering (the UTC’s specialist subjects)<sup>4</sup>. Instead, it is more likely that the UTC will compete with those FE and sixth form colleges, both inside and outside of the borough, which provide similar courses to those offered by the UTC.

32. In the three main catchment areas for the UTC, there are seven schools with sixth forms and six FE and Sixth Form Colleges. In this context, the 300 new places on offer at the UTC are unlikely to seriously threaten the viability of any one post-16 provider in this wider area. The UTC will not be enrolling year 12 and 13 students until after the raising of the participation age to 17 in 2013, when further post-16 places will be required in Greenwich. Furthermore, many of the competitor FE Colleges offer large scale, and diverse provision. However, the new provision will arrive at a time when the size of the 15-19 population is (temporarily) in decline in Greenwich and many of its neighbouring boroughs. ONS population projections for Greenwich show the number of 15-19 years olds will decrease from 12,600 in 2012 to 12,000 in 2018. Figures remain at around 12,000 until 2020, when they begin to continuously rise again. There is also the potential for some (manageable) overlap of provision with the existing offer at local FE Colleges.

33. The effect on five particular post-16/FE Colleges is worth highlighting, but only those that are expected to be impacted moderately are discussed in detail below:

College (and type)	Distance from UTC (miles)	LA	Impact rating	Pupils on roll (16 – 18 yrs)	2011 Average point score at L3
Shooters Hill Post 16 Campus (Community)	1.56	Greenwich	Minimal	1171	604.9
Greenwich Community College (FE)	1.65	Greenwich	Moderate	1012	575.2
Christ the King Sixth Form College	2.69	Lewisham	Minimal	2088	706.4
Lewisham College (FE)	3.31	Lewisham	Minimal	2373	474.9
Bexley College (FE)	5.30	Bexley	Moderate	821	472.7

### **Colleges where the impact is moderate**

34. The impact of the UTC on the Colleges below has been assessed as moderate:

***(d) Greenwich Community College – Greenwich (1.65 miles from the proposed site)***

35. Greenwich Community College is an FE College. It has 1012 students aged 16-18. It was rated as satisfactory by Ofsted in its last inspection in May 2010.

36. The average point score per student achieving all level three qualifications is 575.

<sup>4</sup> YPLA ‘16-19 Learner Responsive Residency Data & MI Report’, May 2011.

This was below the national average of 728 and below the average for Greenwich of 601.

37. Greenwich Community College is 1.65 miles away and it is the second closest college to the UTC. Around 9% of learning aims being studied are similar to those offered by UTC. In consultation, Greenwich College has expressed concern over another local college offering similar engineering courses to its own. It may therefore lose a few more potential students aged 16+ than other colleges. Also, it is in the LA where the UTC hopes to draw 50% of its pupils from so the effect in this area may be larger than on similar size/style colleges in different authorities. Even if the college does lose some students, it should not affect the long term viability of the college because it offers a diverse range of courses to adult learners as well. The impact of the UTC has been assessed as moderate.

**(e) Bexley College – Bexley (5.3 miles from the proposed site)**

38. Bexley College is an FE College. It has 821 pupils aged 16-18. It was rated as satisfactory by Ofsted in its last inspection in January 2010.

39. The average point score per student achieving all level three qualifications is 472.7. This was below the national average of 728 and the average for Bexley of 777.

40. Bexley College falls within one of the three local authorities that are the UTC's main catchment area. In 2009/10 11% of courses offered by Bexley College overlapped with the specialisms of the proposed UTC. Bexley is comparatively large compared to the size of UTC, Royal Greenwich but given the overlap in specialisms and poor performance compared to the LA/national average, it could lose potential pupils to the UTC. The impact of the UTC has therefore been assessed as moderate.

**Impact on other UTCs and Free Schools**

41. The Greenwich UTC is not the only new post-16 education provision being introduced into this area of London. The Hackney UTC (subject of a previous UTC impact assessment and focussing on ICT and health specialisms) will be established in the neighbouring borough of Hackney. In addition, the Greenwich Free School is due to open in September 2012 and the London Academy of Excellence (LAE) (the first 16-19 Free School) is also due to be established in the nearby borough of Newham. This Free School aims to prepare high achieving, deprived young people for entry into Britain's top universities.

42. Although Greenwich UTC is close to Hackney UTC, their catchment areas only overlap in a few places. Greenwich UTC's three high priority catchment areas (Greenwich, Bexley and Lewisham) do not include any of Hackney UTC's local authority catchment areas. However, two of Greenwich UTC's low priority catchment areas (Tower Hamlets and Southwark) are in the catchment area for Hackney UTC. There are two colleges (Southwark College, Tower Hamlets College) in these areas from which both UTCs could attempt to attract pupils. These two colleges are unlikely to be affected by the opening of Greenwich UTC,

as they do not currently contain many learning aims in engineering or construction subjects.

43. The Greenwich Free School is a secondary school for 11-18 year olds, but is focused on core academic study and has no specialism. It will be located 2.8 miles from the UTC and will open with 100 pupils in Year 7 and will admit 100 pupils into Year 7 each of the following years. From 2014/15 the school will admit 100 pupils into its Year 12. It aims to be at full capacity in 2016/17, when it expects to have 700 pupils on roll.

The LAE will open in Newham in September 2012 with 150 Year 12 pupils. It aims to admit a further 150 Year 12 pupils in 2013, before gradually building up to a steady state of admitting 200 pupils in Year 12 each year from 2015. The fact that the Greenwich Free School, the LAE and UTC Royal Greenwich are opening up in nearby areas is likely to have only a minimal effect on existing institutions. The pupils the Free School and LAE are targeting are very different to the pupils Greenwich UTC is targeting. Greenwich Free School is focused on core academic study and the LAE is aiming to attract students who perform well at academic GCSEs and want to go on to an academic path post-16. Further, if Greenwich UTC attracted pupils from Newham, it would more likely to admit pupils who would have attended Newham College of Further Education (which offers more technical courses), while the LAE would be more likely to admit pupils who would have attended Newham Sixth Form College (as this institution has a relatively greater offer of academic courses)

### **Impact on Primary schools, Special Schools and Alternative Provision**

44. The UTC, Royal Greenwich 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**

45. UTC, Royal Greenwich's wide catchment area 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.
46. As described above, for three 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, 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.

47. Many of 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. Available evidence suggests that two FE colleges could potentially be impacted more than others. Greenwich Community College is the closest college to the UTC, and has a fairly large offer in engineering and construction subjects (the UTC specialisms). Therefore its pupil numbers and attainment could suffer, but this should not affect its long term viability. Bexley College is within one of the UTC's main catchment areas. The college is comparatively large, but its offer overlaps with the UTC's specialisms and the college performs poorly relatively to others in the LA. Therefore it could lose potential pupils to the UTC.