

Title: Corby Technical School
Author: Department of Education (DfE)

Impact Assessment – Section 9 Academies Act Duty

1. Section 9 of the Academies Act places a duty upon the Secretary of State to take into account what the impact of establishing the additional school would be 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

2. Corby Technical School (CTS) is a secondary school due to open in Corby, Northamptonshire in September 2012. The sponsor is Brooke Weston Academy. In its first year there will be 75 pupils in Year 7. The school is expected to grow each year and will reach a capacity of 375 11-16 students and 100 post 16 students in 2019. It will offer traditional academic subjects together with a range of technical subjects encompassing engineering, construction, electronics and ICT. All schools in the area have sixth form provision but none offer the range of technical subjects which will be available at CTS. Corby is a mixture of densely populated urban areas and large surrounding tracts of countryside. It is the most deprived borough in the local authority.

3. The applicants have carried out a public consultation with local stakeholders and 148 responses were received with 142 in support. They also carried out statutory consultation under section 10 of the Academies Act 2010 but only received 4 responses, all in favour. So far the parents of 59 pupils have accepted places and the Trust expects this number to increase to 75 by September.

Catchment Area, its Characteristics and Admissions

4. The school's admissions policy is fully compliant with the School Admissions Code. Where fewer applications than the published admission number for the relevant year are received, places will be offered to all those who have applied.

5. When CTS is oversubscribed, after the admission of Looked After Children and students with Statements of Special Educational Needs where the school is named in the Statement, all other applicants will take a suitable cognitive ability test which will be a NFER non-verbal reasoning test. This test is used to ensure that CTS admits an intake that is representative of the national ability range and is comprehensive in its intake. This is not a tool to give priority to more able students. Applicants who do not sit the cognitive ability test will only be considered for a place at the school once allocations have been made to all those who did.

6. The following process will occur:

- All applicants taking the test will be placed in one of nine ability bands based on the results of the test. A number of places will be allocated from each band in a proportion that reflects the national ability range.
- The following criteria will be applied in priority order to determine those children who will be offered places:

(1) **Proximity to the Corby Technical School**

(2) **Sibling link**

(3) **Other children.**

7. There is no defined catchment area for the new school so we have created a proxy area of three and a half miles. This is the distance travelled to school by a significant majority (80%) of pupils in Northamptonshire. There are four secondary schools within a three and a half mile radius of CTS.

8. Based on school census figures for 2011 the four existing secondary schools in Corby have a capacity of 4,982 and currently there are 4,636 pupils on roll. This means that there is a small surplus of places of 6.9% of total capacity. Projections indicate that Corby will require an additional 927 secondary places by 2017/18, an increase of 19.9%. CTS will therefore be able to meet part of the expected increase in the demand for places.

Local Authority View

9. The Local Authority confirmed that at present the demand for school places in Corby is exceeding capacity in all year groups except Year 7 for September 2012. It actively supports the new Free School as giving parents a wider choice and does not feel it will have a long term impact upon any of the other local schools in the area. The demand for places will increase further in the next few years. The Local Authority is making a site available for the Free School on a long lease basis with a peppercorn rent.

Representations

10. No direct representations have been received by the Department but the applicants have carried out a public consultation with local stakeholders. 2000 information leaflets and consultation brochures were distributed across Corby to local businesses, education stakeholders (including Corby primary schools), all parents and carers of year 5 and/or year 6 children, political groups, including Borough and Local Authority members, and community groups. Details of the proposal were made available on the Brooke Weston website, at shopping centres and supermarkets and at civic premises including local libraries. 148 responses were received from parents and carers with children of primary age; 142 were in support and six against.

Some members of the Borough Council have indicated verbally to the applicants that they are against the proposal but have not put anything in writing. The Corby primary schools are supportive.

11. The formal statutory consultation under Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010 was carried out by the applicants between 1 March and 23 March and 23 April and 11 May asking whether, based on the information already published, Brooke Weston should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Department. Only four responses were received and all were positive. So far the parents of 59 pupils have shown their support by accepting a place for September.

Impact ratings for individual secondary schools in Corby

12. **Brooke Weston Academy (BWA) – Minimal impact** (1.16 miles from proposed site)

School type: Co-educational 11-18 Academy

Capacity: This Academy, which was previously a successful City Technology College (CTC), has capacity for 1,220 pupils. Currently there are no surplus places and the Academy is regularly oversubscribed because of the quality of education provided.

Ofsted: The school was rated as outstanding by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2011.

11 -16 attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment well above the national average – 84% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSE in 2010/11 compared with 58% nationally.

Post-16 attainment: The Key Stage 5 attainment is also well above the national average. The average point score per student was 869.8 in 2010/11 compared with 728.2 nationally.

Impact: likely to be minimal – BWA may lose some pupils to the new school but it recruits 50% of its intake from the Kettering area and is a high performing school which is regularly oversubscribed. Even if it does lose some potential pupils to the Free School it should still be able to fill all of its places. Any losses should be mitigated by the increased demand for secondary places in the area over the next few years.

13. **Lodge Park Technology College – High impact** (1.61 miles from proposed site)

School type: Co-educational 11-18 Foundation School

Capacity: The school has capacity for 1,230 pupils and there are currently 1,223 pupils at the school. It did not fill all its Year 7 places in September 2011, with around 3.5% of places unfilled.

Ofsted: The school was placed in special measures by Ofsted in September 2011 as its performance was judged to be inadequate. The second monitoring visit in June judged that the school had made satisfactory progress overall since going into special measures.

11 – 16 attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment well below the national average – 38% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSE in 2010/11 compared with 58% nationally.

Post-16 attainment: Similarly Key Stage 5 attainment is well below the national average. The average point score per student was 599.8 in 2010/11 compared with 728.2 nationally.

Impact: Likely to be high in the short term because of the special measures judgement. Parents are likely to be more attracted to the new CTS which will be part of the Brooke Weston group of schools. These have a good reputation locally. In the longer term the impact may well be less if the school comes out of special measures quickly and its performance improves. Furthermore, as a relatively large school with a relatively small proportion of surplus places, Lodge Park's long term viability is unlikely to be brought into question by CTS, especially given the increasing demand for places in Corby over the next few years.

14. **Kingswood School – Moderate impact** (1.85 miles from the proposed site)

School type: Co-educational 11-18 Foundation School

Capacity: The school currently has 1,187 pupils on roll which is below the capacity of 1,302, a surplus of 8.8%. In September 2011 it recruited 204 Year 7 pupils (capacity 200).

Ofsted: The school was rated as satisfactory by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2011.

11-16 attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment below the national average – 47% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSE in 2010/11 compared with 58% nationally.

Post-16 attainment: The School's Key Stage 5 attainment is also below the national average. Average point score per student was 610.2 in 2010/11 compared with 728.2 nationally.

Impact: Impact likely to be moderate – The school may lose pupils to CTS as its attainment is below the national averages and it is only rated as satisfactory by Ofsted. However, even if it does lose some potential pupils to the Free School, it was oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12 so should still be able to fill most or all of its places. Additionally, any loss of pupils may be mitigated by the increased demand for secondary places in the area over the

next few years.

15. **Corby Business Academy – Moderate impact** (2.26 miles from the proposed site)

School type: Co-educational 11–18 Academy

Capacity: The school has capacity for 1,250 pupils and currently has 1,008 on roll. This amounts to 20% surplus capacity.

Ofsted: The school was rated as satisfactory with outstanding leadership and capacity for sustained improvement by Ofsted in January 2011.

11-16 attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment well below the national average – 32% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSE in 2010/11 compared with 58% nationally.

Post-16 attainment: Similarly, Key Stage 5 attainment is below the national average. Average point score per student was 575.6 in 2010/11 compared with 728.2 nationally.

Impact: Likely to be moderate – although it has below average attainment at Key Stage 4 and 5 and is only rated as satisfactory by Ofsted, the Business Academy is an improving school with outstanding leadership. It is part of the Brooke Weston family of schools. Although it may lose some pupils to CTS it is still likely to be able to fill most or all of its places as it was oversubscribed for entry in September 2011. Additionally, any loss of pupils to the new Free School may be mitigated by the increased demand for secondary places in the area over the next few years.

Conclusion

16. In the short term we believe that there is likely to be a minimal impact on one of the secondary schools within three and half miles of CTS, a moderate impact on two and a high impact on the other. In the longer term, the impact should be reduced as there is expected to be a rising demand for school places in Corby. Furthermore, any negative impact CTS will have on other schools is likely to be outweighed by the positive benefits it will have in enhancing choice for local parents and pupils, given that it is being established by the most successful school in the area and will offer a different curriculum compared to other local schools.

17. There are 11 primary schools in close proximity to CTS but we do not think that there is likely to be any negative impact on these as there will be no primary provision at the Free School. Indeed these schools are known to support the Free School's establishment. A further education college is situated next to the proposed site for CTS. It fully supports the application and is expected to provide much of the technical curriculum for the Free School. There are no other FE colleges or any alternative provision in the immediate area.