

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS OF SHIRELAND BIOMEDICAL UTC

What is the proposal?

Health Futures University Technology College (UTC) joined the Multi Academy Trust; Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust (the Trust) on 1st April 2022 and became Shireland Biomedical UTC. With the support of Sandwell Local Authority, the Trust is proposing that the following changes are made to the UTC's current admissions arrangements:

- Reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) of the UTC's sixth form from 150 places to 75 places.
- Change the centroid point structure within the oversubscription criteria for pre-16 admissions.
- Include a criterion in the oversubscription criteria for both pre-16 and post-16 admissions that applicants with siblings in the UTC have a higher priority over all other applicants who are not classified as a 'looked after child' or for a child with a specific medical condition where the UTC has been identified as the most appropriate placement.
- In the post-16 oversubscription criteria, change the final criterion to be based on the straight-line distance between an applicant's home address and the UTC site rather than the straight-line distance between an applicant's home address and the nodal point nearest to their home.

Why is it necessary?

From September 2023, the Trust will operate a sixth form consortium between the UTC, Shireland Collegiate Academy, and Shireland CBSO Academy. The Trust is proposing that the PAN for the UTC's post-16 offering is reduced from 150 places to 75 places to ensure that the consortium model is both operationally and logistically viable.

In addition, the Trust proposes that the PAN for the UTC's sixth form be reduced, given the establishment has never admitted more than 75 students since its inception in 2015. Please see below the historical admissions data for the Year 12 in September 2019, September 2020, and September 2021:

	Number of Y12 Students Admitted
September 2019	40
September 2020	56
September 2021	39

Moreover, over the last few years, there have been significantly higher numbers moving into primary schools across the Sandwell Borough. This is as a result of an increasing birth rate and inward migration. The council has worked with primary schools to provide over 5000 new places and, since 2010, around 40 primary schools have been expanded to accommodate more children.

These children are now of course moving up to secondary schools and the local authority is facing a big increase in demand. Therefore, The Trust is proposing that the current centroid structure is changed to a 6-point centroid structure with up to 20 places allocated to each of

the six towns within the Sandwell Borough: West Bromwich, Tipton, Wednesbury, Oldbury, Rowley Regis, and Smethwick. This change will help the Trust integrate a robust centroid structure that will help accommodate the growing demand for secondary school places in the Sandwell Borough. Please find the proposed centroid point structure on the UTC's website ([Home - Shireland Biomedical UTC \(sbmutc.org.uk\)](http://sbmutc.org.uk)).

Furthermore, the Trust proposes that a sibling criterion be added to the oversubscription criteria for both pre-16 and post-16 admissions into the UTC. This proposed adjustment is essential to ensure that the UTC's arrangements are compatible with those of the other secondary academies within the Trust.

Finally, in order to ensure consistency across the sixth form consortium, the Trust proposes that the current centroid point structure be removed from the post-16 oversubscription criteria and replaced with a criterion that prioritises entry based on the distance between the applicants' home address and the UTC site.

When will this change happen?

If agreed, the proposed changes would be integrated within the UTC's 2023/24 admissions arrangements.

How will this affect students at the Academy?

The proposed changes will not affect the students currently enrolled at the UTC and the students set to join the establishment in September 2022.

Is there an opportunity for parents and local residents to raise individual concerns?

Yes, the purpose of this consultation period is to provide parents / carers, local residents and our other stakeholders with an opportunity to raise any concerns regarding the proposed changes to the admission arrangements. Please see the 'How to give your views' section below.

What happens next?

The Trust will consider the feedback from this consultation exercise and, if it is decided to proceed with the proposal, it will be necessary to present a Business Case to the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC). The RSC is appointed by the Secretary of State for Education, and he will have the final decision on whether the Academy can expand. We would hope that the decision will be made before July 2022.

How to give your views:

Please feel free to complete the survey linked below to provide your views on the proposal:

<https://forms.office.com/r/6UQwPgxd41>