

## Impact of Free School Proposal

DESCRIPTION	IMPACT
School Places - 11-16	<p>The Free School will provide an additional 120 places per year.</p> <p>May attract some parents to take up secondary places within the authority.</p> <p>There are currently sufficient secondary school places. Will impact on numbers in existing Runcorn Secondary schools e.g. Ormiston Bolingbroke and The Grange.</p>
Post – 16 Provision	<p>The Free School will create 300 additional post-16 places.</p> <p>May attract some young people to continue in post-16 provision that would have previously considered out of borough provision</p> <p>Impact on Riverside College student numbers and student numbers at Ormiston Bolingbroke</p>
Admissions	<p>The Free School will be operating outside the current admissions round for 2012 causing disruption to parents and schools. From 2013 will operate in accordance with the co-ordinated admissions process in Halton.</p>
Funding	<p>The Free School is funded on an average secondary pupil, this sum will be removed from the Dedicated School Grant for each pupil attending the Free School.</p> <p>In addition the Free School will receive a share of LACSEG based on pupil numbers this will reduce the centrally held budgets and impact on the level of centrally managed services for schools/pupils.</p>
Capital	<p>The BSF Programme aimed to develop capital schemes at St Chad's Catholic and Church of England High School and The Heath to improve the building and increase capacity. These programmes were ceased by the DFE due to lack of funding. The Free School proposal is to build a new school on Sandymoor on this site. This does not represent value for money.</p>

### Summary

The Free School proposal does not represent value for money. This provision is not required and compromises the role the authority has effectively discharged as Strategic Commissioner of School Places. It will create surplus secondary places and impact on current post-16 provision, removing funding from the Dedicated Schools Grant. This reduction in funding is likely to have a detrimental

impact on the improving secondary performance and the ability of the schools affected by the Free School proposal to offer and sustain a broad and balanced curriculum. It will also require unnecessary and significant capital investment in the development of a new secondary school.