

**19 September 2016****Agenda Item: 08****REPORT OF ACTING SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION STANDARDS AND  
INCLUSION****NEWARK FREE SCHOOL****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the Torch Academy Free School proposal in the context of available strategic Place Planning projections of demand for secondary school places in Newark Town.

**Information and Advice****The Newark Free School (secondary)**

2. A letter dated 13 July 2016 to the Corporate Director, Children, Families and Cultural services, from the Free Schools Group at the Department for Education (DfE) advised that a bid to establish a new mainstream secondary free school with post-16 provision has been approved by the DfE. The school is currently known as *Newark – Toot Hill Free School*. The expectation is that the presence of this new school will encourage the retention of students in the town who might otherwise have moved over the border into Lincolnshire or made the journey from Newark to Bingham to attend Toot Hill School. The additional places will also provide accommodation for the growing number of secondary students in the area, including those generated by the several, large proposed housing developments in and around the town.
3. In the Newark Town area there are currently two secondary schools: The Magnus Church of England Academy (Requires Improvement) and The Newark Academy (inspected 2012 Requires Improvement). The new free school has stated that it will have a capacity of 830 and will include a sixth form. The Planned Admission Number (PAN) can therefore be inferred at 150, i.e. 5 form entry.
4. Current data indicates an annual outflow of approximately 170 secondary aged pupils to nearby Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire schools (845 children in total). A breakdown is as follows:-

*As at January 2016:*

School	Area	Academic year					Total
		Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	
<b>Bingham Toot Hill</b>	Rushcliffe	138	101	109	72	41	461
<b>Tuxford Academy</b>	Bassetlaw	23	20	33	8	14	98
<b>Sir William Robertson</b>	Lincolnshire	39	31	12	28	49	159
<b>The King's School Grantham</b>	Lincolnshire	12	8	10	12	8	50
<b>Kesteven and Grantham Girl's School</b>	Lincolnshire	13	14	15	17	18	77
<b>Total:</b>		225	174	179	137	130	845

5. From September 2017 there are 124 known children who may leave Newark for secondary education. Pupils may elect to remain in Newark if the Toot Hill Free School provision is ultimately judged by Ofsted to be a 'Good' or "Outstanding" and is attractive to parents. It should be noted, however, that Ofsted undertakes to inspect a new school within three years of opening.
6. If the Newark Toot Hill Free School is located in the Newark Town area, it is unlikely that students who have already made the move to schools outside Newark will move back to the town. However, the assumption has been made that when the new school is established, at least a large percentage of Newark Town students will elect to start their secondary education within the town.
7. Significantly, there are several large housing developments proposed in the Newark area: Newark Growth Point and the area south of Collis Close. If fully realised over the 15 year term, this housing growth could raise the demand for secondary school places by over 920. On an annual basis therefore, the Newark Toot Hill Free School could potentially recruit 124 students from the existing population and 184 from housing growth ( $920/5 = 184$ ), creating an annual demand for places of circa. 300 if all housing developments are realised.
8. The increased demand for secondary school places in Newark Town would therefore be accommodated in the existing secondary schools and the proposed Toot Hill Free School. In addition, the capacity of Toot Hill Bingham to accommodate out-of-catchment students will be reduced due to proposed housing developments and the school plans to manage down its PAN in order to allow it to grow in line with the expected arrivals from housing developments.

#### **Other secondary schools in the Newark Town area**

9. There are two existing secondary schools in the area: Magnus CE Academy and Newark Academy.
10. The tables and charts contained in **Appendix 1** illustrate the latest projected demand for places in each of the Newark Town schools over the next 10 years from school year 2016/17. The figures are based upon the January 2016 school census and the latest mid-year population estimates available from the Office of National Statistics. This data suggests that, given the assumption that there will be an additional demand for circa. 300 places per cohort, (circa.1,500 in total over all school years), due to the retention of Newark

students within the town and planned housing developments, there will be a need for additional places to be provided in the town of Newark.

### **Other Options Considered**

11. The report is for information only.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

12. The report is for information only.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the establishment of the new Newark – Toot Hill Free School be noted.

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### **Constitutional Comments**

14. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

### **Financial Comments (TMR 23/08/16)**

15. As this report is for noting only, no Financial Comments are required.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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