

Summary of Assessment of Impact of Kings Priory School upon schools maintained by North Tyneside Council

- 1.1 In September 2012 the Department for Education (DfE) indicated that it had undertaken a very high level impact assessment prior to issuing the Academy Order. The DfE indicated that its initial assessment considered that at primary level the merger would have a minimal impact as the net gain in the published admission number (PAN) would be the provision of 15 additional state funded places, which was equivalent to the 2011 primary intake at Kings School in September 2011. They also indicate that at secondary level the PAN of 125 assumed that the expected 2012 admission number at Kings School of 80 pupils would be sustained thereby introducing approximately 45 additional places into the maintained sector. The DfE acknowledged that the two secondary schools within one mile of the proposed academy administered close to their PAN in the last year and therefore there could be some detrimental effect on those two schools.
- 1.2 However, a preliminary assessment by Council officers based on information provided by the project manager acting on behalf of the Woodard Academies Trust, and the most recent admissions information held by the Local Authority, indicates that if the Kings Priory School proposals go ahead there will be a significant impact on the population in schools maintained by the Local Authority. At the present time we are still waiting on information regarding the pupils who would be admitted to reception and year 9 in order to conclude the full impact assessment on North Tyneside schools.

Summary

- 1.3 Following the analysis of the impact of Kings Priory School on pupil numbers in schools maintained by North Tyneside Council we can conclude the following:
- i. The proposals will not provide any additional capacity at primary level, taking account of the current size of Kings Primary School and Priory Primary School. However it is not possible at this stage to anticipate whether the proposed admission arrangements into Kings Priory reception will have a detrimental impact on any individual neighbouring primary schools and we are awaiting further information to conclude this element of the impact assessment.
 - ii. The announcement of the Kings Priory Proposal has already affected the North Tyneside School System. 41 primary aged pupils have transferred from

existing North Tyneside Schools into the Kings and Priory Schools with a further 12 transfers pending.

- iii. At secondary level additional capacity will be added into the North Tyneside school system at a time when pupil numbers are falling as a result of falling birth rates. Currently the secondary system is carrying 14% surplus capacity. A combination of falling rolls up to 2015/16 and the additional capacity provided by the Kings Priory School means the overall surplus secondary capacity will rise to 20% by 2015/16. The secondary aged school population will start to increase incrementally from 2015/16, however there is sufficient surplus capacity in the existing school system to accommodate this increase which without the additional capacity provided by Kings Priory would be at 8% surplus by 2022/23.
- iv. In addition to the above, there are specific concerns relating to the impact resulting from the creation of an all-through school through the merger of Priory School and Kings School. This means that those attending the primary school will automatically transfer to the secondary school. The information provided indicates that this would equate to a 35% reduction in the pupil roll at one feeder secondary school and will have a further detrimental impact on other secondary schools in the area. This rapid decline in pupil numbers and the associated financial impact is likely to result in reduced levels of staffing in neighbouring schools; this may restrict the ability of those schools to provide a broad and balanced curriculum and thus have a significant destabilising impact.
- v. Additional school places will also be added into the system at Year 9 for the first two years following the opening of the new Academy. Initial analysis indicates that this will have a detrimental impact on the three tier system, with a potential destabilising impact on Year 9 admissions in the 13 – 18 system.
- vi. The proposal for increasing the 6th form capacity is anticipated to have a negative impact on the 6th form provision across North Tyneside both in schools and at Queen Alexandra 6th Form College as traditionally those students leaving Marden, John Spence and Norham High Schools would transfer to post-16 arrangements at the Queen Alexandra 6th Form College.
- vii. Regarding the proposals surrounding nursery provision, it is now understood from the appointed project manager that the proposals to establish a nursery from September 2014 have been delayed. This will need to be reviewed as part of a future impact assessment. Notwithstanding this, the Local Authority would anticipate a significant impact for Sir James Knott Nursery.