



University  
Technical  
Colleges

Sheffield UTC  
Academy Trust

# A new University Technical College for 14–19 year olds in the Sheffield City Region

Consultation document

[www.sheffieldutc.co.uk](http://www.sheffieldutc.co.uk)

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## Welcome from the sponsors

We, as the sponsors of the Sheffield UTC, are proposing to the Secretary of State for Education to set up a University Technical College in Sheffield.

Before we do so, we want to put our proposals to a wide group of employers, parents and students, and the education and training community in Sheffield and its City Region who have an interest in the education of 14–19 year olds.

This document sets out our reasons. We know that the economic growth sectors of advanced engineering and manufacturing, and creative and digital industries are vital to the future of this Region. Both are facing challenges in recruiting people with the right skills. Our solution is to propose setting up a new institution – a University Technical College – providing a broad education but focusing on these sectors.

To get to this stage we have been in discussion with local employers, both universities, schools and colleges. We have the support of local Members of Parliament, and local councillors.

That encouraged us to make a bid. We are extremely grateful to the Secretary of State for Education for his approval to proceed to the pre-opening phase and to Sheffield City Council for agreeing to purchase the site.

In progressing through this phase, we want to be confident that we have widespread support. This consultation document sets out our blueprint.

We welcome your comments. How to do so and timescales are set out on page 16.

Yours sincerely



**A Cropley**  
Principal of Norton College  
and Executive Director,  
The Sheffield College



**Richard Wright**  
Chief Executive,  
Sheffield Chamber  
of Commerce and Industry



**Alistair Sambell**  
Pro Vice-Chancellor,  
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Engineering and Sciences,  
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# 1 Introduction

Every parent wants their child to get a satisfying job that helps them reach their potential. That's why a group of Sheffield's leading employers, its universities and Sheffield College, supported by the local authority, have come together to form an Academy Trust that will establish a University Technical College (UTC) for Sheffield. The Trust has put forward a proposal to the Secretary of State for Education to create the Sheffield UTC and open it to students in the city and its surrounding areas.

The need for Sheffield UTC is based on the evidence that:

- the economy will grow in areas that need increasingly skilled people
- two areas in particular – **advanced engineering and manufacturing**, and **creative and digital media** – face recruitment issues. Both these are key growth sectors essential to the future economic prosperity of Sheffield and the surrounding City Region
- given the chance to learn the right skills, young people in Sheffield have the talent to fill jobs in these sectors.

This document gives you more information about the Sheffield UTC proposal, invites you to help shape its development and, most of all, aims to get young people, parents, carers and employers excited about the project.



## 2 What is a University Technical College?

A number of University Technical Colleges are opening nationally, funded by the Department for Education. UTCs combine practical and academic studies for young people who are really interested in following particular career paths from the age of 14 or 16.

For an organisation to be a UTC it must be:

- a new educational institution taking students between the ages of 14 to 19
- sponsored by local universities
- actively backed by leading local employers.

The UTC must also offer a new form of learning through:

- specialising in two employment-related subject areas, as well as providing a core of more general learning relevant to future jobs
- involving employers and the universities in the design and delivery of learning
- creating a businesslike approach including having a longer working day and academic year.



## 3 About Sheffield UTC

### 3.1 Why a UTC in Sheffield?

Both the advanced engineering and manufacturing and creative and digital media sectors are crucial to the future success of Sheffield and its surrounding area. Companies in these sectors need many new entrants, with higher skill levels than ever before, in order to grow. While existing schools and colleges already make a significant contribution to both sectors, local employers consistently report that they need more young people leaving full-time education with higher levels of achievement in core scientific and technical subjects. More companies could also be attracted into the area if we had a higher-skilled young workforce.

Moreover, both these sectors are undergoing rapid development. That makes it difficult for young people and their parents or carers to keep up with the new career opportunities. So the UTC is a way of being directly involved as it prepares young people for the future jobs.

The Sheffield UTC aims to address this range of issues through learning that provides outstanding preparation for entry into employment in these sectors, either directly or via higher education. The curriculum will integrate learning through employer-led project activities that foster teamworking, problem-solving and creative skills as part and parcel of developing technical knowledge and expertise.

It is anticipated that about two thirds of students at the UTC will follow the advanced engineering and manufacturing programme and one third creative and digital media.

### 3.2 What benefits will it bring?

Sheffield UTC will transform the job prospects of the young people it educates by providing:

- access to world-class facilities focusing on advanced engineering and manufacturing, and creative and digital media
- a curriculum that reflects the latest technological advances
- students with employer-led work experiences
- skills in two areas of economic growth where they are most needed and where future local economic growth will take place
- the impetus to encourage growth in sectors that are central to the regeneration of the local economy.



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Both the advanced engineering and manufacturing and creative and digital media sectors are crucial to the future success of Sheffield and its surrounding area.

### 3.3 How will the UTC differ from other schools and colleges?

For young people who are strongly interested in careers in advanced engineering and manufacturing, or creative and digital media, the UTC will provide a different experience from the schools they have attended before:

- they will follow courses of learning that contain a large amount of specialist learning in the two sectors – 40% of their time in Years 10 and 11, rising to 60% in Years 12 and 13
- they will engage in project-based learning, led by local employers and backed by the two Sheffield universities, and providing practical hands-on experience in the skills they will need for employment in the two sectors, at an advanced level, as well as the necessary theoretical underpinning
- they will learn in a setting that aims to follow business routines in dress standards and length of the working day, with a longer academic year, and a greater sense of individual responsibility for learning and attainment
- there will be many chances to meet and get to know local companies in both sectors and the range of careers they can offer – and for the companies to get to know individual students
- at the same time they will be able to benefit from a programme of more general learning and enhancement activities that will help develop all-round employment and life skills
- they will gain both general and specialist qualifications
- there will be clear progression routes into employment or higher education, with excellent career prospects
- even students who decide on an alternative career path have benefitted from an educational experience that will open many doors for future jobs, education and training.

### 3.4 Who is involved?

Sheffield UTC will be managed by a new company, the Sheffield UTC Academy Trust. The Trust has three members:

- Sheffield College, who are leading the project
- Sheffield Hallam University
- Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Other organisations represented on the Board of the UTC include:

- Firth Rixson (an engineering company)
- The University of Sheffield
- Sheffield City Council
- Newburgh Engineering
- Local creative and digital media employer representative
- King Edward VII School.

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There will be many chances to meet and get to know local companies in both sectors and the range of careers they can offer – and for the companies to get to know individual students.

A number of other organisations who have backed the project, including:

**Employers:**

- Boeing Advance Manufacturing Research Centre
- Tata Steel (formerly Corus)
- Kraft/Cadbury Foods
- South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service
- The Workshop
- Sheffield International Venues
- Learning Light
- HSBC
- Sero Consulting
- Pegler Yorkshire
- AES Seal
- Atomising Systems Ltd
- Callstain Ltd
- Cutting and Wear
- Darron SBO
- Doncasters
- Durham-Duplex
- Gripple
- Highlander
- Koyo Bearings (Europe) Ltd
- Parkin Ltd
- Rotary Electrical Services Ltd
- Trelleborg Sealing Solutions

**Schools and colleges:**

- Handsworth Grange Community Sports College
- Hinde House School
- Parkwood Academy (E-ACT)
- Longley Park Sixth Form College
- Rotherham College of Arts and Technology

**Training providers:**

- Brinsworth Academy of Engineering

*This list is being added to all the time.*

### 3.5 Where will Sheffield UTC be based?

Sheffield UTC will be based in Sheffield city centre on Shoreham Street, a location that offers easy access to the train station, tram stops and Pond Street bus station. It will be at a point midway between Sheffield College and Sheffield Hallam University, forming an education hub within the Cultural Industries Quarter. The location of Sheffield UTC reflects its academic and technical standing.

The UTC will be based in a new building, although it may also include a refurbished Sheffield silversmiths, Sydney Works. Sheffield City Council has agreed to purchase the site and lease the land to the Trust.

Sheffield UTC will open in September 2013.



## 4 Studying at Sheffield UTC

### 4.1 The curriculum

#### 14–16 year old students

Technical studies will account for 40% of the curriculum with the other 60% spent on core subjects.

Students will study for national qualifications in the specialism they have chosen, either advanced engineering and manufacturing or creative and digital media.

In addition, all students will study a range of GCSEs including Mathematics, English, and two sciences, and a foreign language. Students will also be able to choose from a range of options for one other GCSE, which will include Geography. Students who wish to gain the English Baccalaureate (5 good GCSE passes in core subjects) will thus be able to do so, although this will not be compulsory.

Students will also have time dedicated to Physical Education, Citizenship, Careers Education and Guidance, Religious Education, and Personal, Health and Social Education.

#### Post-16 students

For post-16 students studying at Level 3 technical studies will account for 60% of the curriculum and core studies 40%. There may also be some post-16 students who follow a Level 2 course of study.

Level 3 students will study for advanced qualifications in their specialist area. They will also have the opportunity to take one or two A-level subjects or follow other options.

All post-16 students will have time dedicated to Physical Education, Citizenship, Careers Education and Guidance, and Personal, Health and Social Education.

#### All students

Much of the learning will be developed through employer-led cross-curricular projects enhanced by a range of activities which will make every project relevant to every learner. These will include experiences in the workplace and with the universities.

### 4.2 Apprenticeships

It is proposed that entry into apprenticeships be one of the progression routes for students moving on from the UTC either at 16 or 18. Delivery of apprenticeships will not be a focus of the UTC, as it aims to offer a different style of learning. However it will co-operate closely with apprenticeship providers and may engage in joint learning activities. Learning at the UTC will be an excellent preparation for taking up an apprenticeship in the specialist sectors if this is the student's preferred route into employment.

The UTC will also have strong links with the Advanced Manufacturing Institute at the Advanced Manufacturing Park, also opening in 2013, and will look to develop collaborative learning activities.

### 4.3 A day in the life of a student at Sheffield UTC

Students at Sheffield UTC will have a working day of:

- Monday–Thursday, 8.30am–5.30pm
- Friday, 8.30am–4.30pm

Sheffield UTC will operate a 40-week teaching year divided into six terms of broadly equal length, accommodating major holidays and aligning closely with Sheffield school holidays. Opportunities will be provided within the year for:

- enrichment activities
- accelerated learning
- extended project work
- work-related learning
- exchanges and visits
- personal project work.

In some subjects, students will be streamed according to their ability. Students at different levels will typically be taught separately, although not always.

Every student will be a member of a Learning Company. These companies will provide the pastoral support for students and will act as a vehicle for enterprise, competition and performance management. Through these companies, students will learn the language of business and the relationship between learning and financial gain.

#### 4.4 Behaviour and attendance policy

Sheffield UTC's sponsors believe that the greatest tool in promoting positive behaviour and good attendance is inspirational teaching.

The culture of Sheffield UTC, where it will be common for students to receive employer sponsorship and to share projects with other students, will encourage an ethos of teamwork and interdependence.

The emphasis will be on having a healthy competitive spirit, rewarding excellence and supporting improvement, just like in a real workplace. There will be a dress code and high standards of attitude and behaviour expected from all students, again, just like in a real workplace.

Sheffield UTC will operate the policies and procedures of the local authority and partner schools over exclusions and transfers.

#### 4.5 Progression routes

Sheffield UTC will work with the city's universities, employers and the National Apprenticeship Service to establish a range of options for learners emerging from the UTC. At ages 16 and 18, students may move into:

- higher education
- further education
- apprenticeship programmes
- employment.

Employers will have the opportunity to sponsor students while they are at the UTC. By sponsoring Sheffield UTC students, employers will help give them a sense of progression. Students will begin to feel like they are part of the company, and the employer will feel that it is contributing to the success of Sheffield UTC through its commitment.



## 5 Admissions

### 5.1 Overall approach

Sheffield UTC will follow the statutory school admissions and appeal codes. These proposals are based on the current code but will be reviewed in the light of any future changes in the law. In developing our admissions policy, we have struck a fair balance between Sheffield and its neighbours, and also minimised the impact on any individual school. We have also ensured that no individual will be advantaged in gaining admission to the UTC by virtue of where they live.

#### Admission numbers

Sheffield UTC will admit the following numbers of students for the year 2013/2014 and for subsequent years:

**120 places for Year 10**

**180 places for Year 12 (120 in 2013/14, the UTC's first year of operation).**

There will be an automatic right of transfer to the post-16 section of the Academy from Year 11 for UTC students who meet the minimum entry requirements. Therefore, there will be a minimum of 60 Year 12 places available for new entrants to the UTC each year, more if not all Year 11 students transfer, up to the overall 180-place limit.

Admissions above these numbers would only occur in exceptional cases and would require the agreement of the Secretary of State for Education. Sheffield UTC is designed for the benefit of the Sheffield City Region<sup>1</sup> and our admissions process reflects this. However the UTC will be open to applicants from outside Sheffield City Region, who will be treated as if they were resident in the nearest area to them within the Region.

#### Year 10 (post-14) admissions

If the number of applicants to the UTC for Year 10 entry is 120 or less then all applicants will be admitted.

All pupils with statements of Special Educational Needs, where the UTC is named on the statement, will be admitted to the UTC.

If the number of applicants for Year 10 entry exceeds the 120 places available then the following over-subscription criteria will apply:

- Looked After Children in the care of a local authority and previously Looked After Children, will be admitted wherever they are based.
- Once remaining applicants are sorted according to the district in which they are resident, the remaining places will be divided equally between the organisational districts of local government responsible for education covering the Sheffield City Region:
  - the seven Community Assembly areas into which the whole of Sheffield is sub-divided
  - the local authority areas of Barnsley, Derbyshire, Doncaster, Nottinghamshire and Rotherham.
- If there is a remainder from the equal division between these 12 districts these places will be shared equally between the districts with the highest number of applicants. In the event of a tie these places will be allocated randomly.
- Having shared out the places between districts, some districts may have more places than applicants. In that case the spare places will be re-shared out among those districts having more applicants than places. This will be done on the basis of an equal division between these districts, to the extent this is mathematically possible, or otherwise by random allocation. This will give a final allocation of places to districts.
- Looking at each district in turn, where within that district there are places for all applicants then all will be admitted. In districts where there are still more applicants than places, then admission in each such district will be on the basis of random allocation between applicants.
- All processes of random allocation will be verified by an independent third party.

#### Year 12 (post-16) admissions

Of the 180 places for Year 12, 150 will be for students following Level 3 courses and 30 for students following a Level 2 programme. For those students admitted to Year 12 at Level 2 we will endeavour, wherever possible, to enable their progression onto a Level 3 programme, including the option of following a three-year post-16 programme rather than the usual two years.

#### **Entry requirements – Level 3 admissions**

All applicants for Level 3 admission, whether transferring internally or applying from outside, will need to meet a minimum entry requirement of 5 GCSE passes at A\*–C, including English and Maths, for Level 3 courses. There may be additional requirements to follow specific courses, details of which will be published in advance in the UTC Prospectus.

#### **Entry requirements – Level 2 admissions**

All applicants for Level 2 admission, whether transferring internally or applying from outside, will need to meet a minimum entry requirement of 4 GCSEs at grade D, or equivalents, including English and Maths.

#### **Admission process for Year 12 – Level 2 and 3**

All applicants for Year 12 admission will be expected to apply for a specific specialisation within the UTC. Initially, there will be 100 places available in advanced engineering and manufacturing at Level 3 and 20 at Level 2, and 50 places available in creative and digital media at Level 3 and 10 at Level 2.

Where the number of external applications for Year 12 which meet the entry requirements exceeds the number of available places, the same process described for Year 10 entry will be followed. The available places for Year 12 will be divided to reflect the balance between Level 2 and Level 3 and the two specialisms.

If there are unfilled places in either specialism at either Level then these will be offered to external applicants who are unsuccessful in getting a place on their preferred specialism, providing they meet the entry requirements for that Level.

The UTC may waive the Year 12 entry requirements, at either Level 2 or 3, for an individual where their failure to meet these requirements results from exceptional circumstances, such as a family bereavement, serious illness or similar adverse factor. These instances will, however, be rare. Any such waiver will require the approval of the UTC Board and of an independent verifier.

#### **Appeals**

Unsuccessful applicants will have a right of appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. The appeals panel will follow the arrangements generally adopted for Sheffield schools, with panel members independent of the UTC, and parents and young people being offered guidance and invited to attend the panel.

#### **Waiting lists**

Where in any year the UTC receives more eligible applications than there are places available, a waiting list will be maintained by the UTC until the end of the first UTC term after the start of the school year. It will be open to any parent to ask for their child's name to be placed on the waiting list. If and when places become available they will be allocated to those on the waiting list through random allocation.

#### **Sponsorship**

The UTC promotes close employer involvement in learning, and as part of this some employers may wish to sponsor individual students. Any sponsorship will take place after admission and will not be part of the admissions arrangements. Students sponsored in Years 10 or 11 will only be able to transfer to Year 12 if they meet the general entry requirements set out above.

#### **Management of applications**

For both age groups, applications will fit into Sheffield Local Authority's timetable for applications each year. Arrangements will include:

- Publication of a prospectus by September each year containing information for applicants wishing to join the UTC the following September, including admissions arrangements and details of open evening and opportunities to visit the UTC (or alternative venue before the UTC building is completed in September 2013). These details will also be made available for inclusion in the combined information published by all the local authorities covered by UTC admissions.
- Application forms will be provided for return by 31 January to the UTC (for Year 10 entry) or Sheffield College (for Year 12 entry).
- Decisions on applications will be made during February and notified to parents, and applicants' home local authorities, on or around 1 March.

## 6 Impact on existing schools and colleges

The development work on Sheffield UTC has been led by Sheffield College. Longley Park Sixth Form College has also been involved, as have schools including King Edward VII, Handsworth Grange Community School, and Parkwood Academy.

The impact analysis has led to the following conclusions:

- The UTC will add to the range of options available to young people in Sheffield and the City Region, through offering advanced technical learning and vocational pathways to those students who will benefit from this route.
- Both the learning offer and the style of learning offered by the UTC will be additional and different to other schools and colleges, increasing student choice.
- To achieve the level of employer involvement at which the UTC aims requires an organisation with a clear vocational focus, and would not be replicable more generally across schools and colleges. This focus will supplement and not replace existing links schools and colleges have with employers, and indeed is likely to strengthen them through increasing employer engagement in and understanding of education in two key sectors.
- The UTC will have 600 students in total across its four year groups when it reaches full capacity. This means that only a small number of students will be transferring to the UTC at 14 and 16 compared to the size of the total cohort at those ages.
- The admissions policy ensures that places are geographically dispersed across the City Region and do not have a disproportionate effect on any one district.
- The secondary intake for the city is set to rise as a result of the demographic uplift, which means more places will be needed by the end of the decade. Sheffield UTC will help alleviate this pressure on school places. Students opting for Sheffield UTC at 14 years old may create space in existing schools and academies and reduce the pressure expected as a result of rising numbers in secondary age students.





## 7 Your feedback

### 7.1 We want your input

A six-week consultation period to collect feedback and discuss the future of Sheffield UTC begins on **27 January and runs through to 9 March 2012.**

This is your opportunity to help us shape Sheffield UTC and ensure that it serves the young people, parents and carers, educational community and employers of Sheffield and its surrounding area. The Trust will look for opportunities to discuss Sheffield UTC face to face and will happily accept invitations to meetings.

### 7.2 How to send us your comments

There are two ways for you to give us your feedback.

- 1 **Go to our website and complete the online survey: [www.sheffieldutc.co.uk](http://www.sheffieldutc.co.uk)**
- 2 **Complete the survey opposite and post it to the following address.**

**Sheffield UTC  
FREEPOST  
The Sheffield UTC Academy Trust  
Norton College  
Dyche Lane  
Sheffield S8 8BR**

### 7.3 What will happen to your comments?

All feedback will be analysed and presented to the Department for Education. It will be used as part of the evidence on which it will consider whether to enter into a funding agreement with the Trust. It will influence further development of the UTC.

A summary of the feedback will feature on **[www.sheffieldutc.co.uk](http://www.sheffieldutc.co.uk)**

*Sheffield City Council will be responsible for personal data given to it in the consultation process and if you have any questions about this, please contact Simon Baddeley, Learning and Skills Manager, Lifelong Learning Skills and Communities, Children, Young People and Families, Sheffield City Council, 145 Crookesmoor Road, Sheffield S6 3FP.*



# UTC consultation questions

## About you

1 Your postcode is:

I am: Tick all that apply to you.

a pupil/student: enter year group

a parent or carer: child(ren) year group

an education professional

an employer

a member of the local community

other please state

## The UTC

2 Do you agree with the proposal to enter into arrangements through a funding agreement (a contract) with the Secretary of State for Education to establish a University Technical College in Sheffield?

Yes  No  Don't know

Space for further comment

3 If a University Technical College is established in Sheffield, it will be located in the city centre, partly to enable easy access via public transport from across Sheffield and the City Region. Will this be a positive factor for you?

Yes  No  Don't know

Space for further comment

4 University Technical Colleges are required to specialise in two vocational areas that best support local economic growth and that provide good employment prospects. Economic development plans for Sheffield indicate that these areas are (i) advanced engineering and manufacturing and (ii) creative and digital media.

Do you agree that these are the right areas in which the Sheffield UTC should specialise?

Yes  No  Don't know

Space for further comment

5 The Government has recently introduced the idea of an English Baccalaureate to recognise students who achieve good GCSE passes in 5 core subjects (English, Maths, the sciences, a foreign language and a humanities subject such as History or Geography). Schools will also be measured in part on how many of their students achieve this level.

Do you think that Sheffield UTC should include achieving the English Baccalaureate among its offer to students?

Yes  No  Don't know

Space for further comment

6 It is envisaged that the UTC will offer a new form of learning. This will be based around employer-led projects developing skills and knowledge across a range of subjects, in practical and realistic work-related settings, rather than conventional classes covering single subjects. Do you think this is a good way to improve the level of educational achievement and employment prospects for its students?

Yes  No  Don't know

Space for further comment





**7** Apprenticeships offer mainly on-the-job learning in employers' workplaces, with only a minority of time spent in school or college. Do you think the UTC should offer apprenticeships as well as full-time learning?

Yes  No  Don't know

Space for further comment

### Admissions to the UTC

**8** The procedures for admitting students to the proposed UTC are set out earlier in this document. Do you agree with the proposals for admitting students if the number of applications exceeds the number of places available?

Yes  No  Don't know

Space for further comment

**9** The UTC will have 180 places for post-16 entry. We propose that 150 of these should be for Level 3 study and 30 for Level 2. Do you think that this balance of places between levels of study is right?

Yes  No  Don't know

Space for further comment

### The UTC and you

**10** How interested are you in attending/sending your child to attend the UTC?

- Very much
- Possibly
- Not very much
- Not at all
- Not applicable

Your contact details for further information

Email

Address

**11** If you are an employer, are you interested in being involved with the work of the Sheffield UTC?

Yes  No  Maybe

If yes, please provide contact details:

Email

Phone

Address

**12** Would you like to be kept in touch with the progress of Sheffield UTC as it develops?

Yes  No

If yes, please provide contact details

Email

Address

**13** Please use this space to give any further comments you may have on the proposals for Sheffield UTC.

Space for further comments

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Hallam University**

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