

## **Briefing note to the Education, Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel: proposed 11-19 Technical Academy, Solent STEM Centre and Academies**

### **1. Proposed 11-19 Technical Academy**

- 1.1 The University of Portsmouth submitted an expression of interest for a University Technical College (UTC) but has decided not to submit a full business case. Instead, it wishes to pursue the establishment of an 11-19 Technical Academy based at City of Portsmouth Boys School.
- 1.2 Highbury College has also put in an expression of interest for a UTC but did not submit a full business case.
- 1.3 The 11-19 Technical Academy would be a co-educational facility with a city-wide catchment area.
- 1.4 If the Academy does go ahead it will alter the distribution of current preferences.
- 1.5 The Academy is unlikely to open before 2013/14. The bidding round for this remains unclear.

### **2. Solent STEM Centre**

- 2.1 Solent STEM Centre is a proposed new studio school which will offer 300 14-19 year olds an education to equip them with the knowledge, skills and experiences they need to succeed in life and work.
- 2.2 The school will specialise in STEM subjects i.e. science, technology, engineering and maths.
- 2.3 The location of the school has not yet been agreed.
- 2.4 The Solent STEM Centre is due to open in September 2012.
- 2.5 The school is proposing to take 150 pupils in the first year and a further 150 in the second year.

### **3. Academies**

- 3.1 Portsmouth City Council wish to avoid a large number of different academy providers within the City (with increased risk of reduced collaborative working) but instead is seeking to actively develop links with two to three 'preferred' Academy sponsors / providers
- 3.2 To date, only Miltoncross School has agreed to pursue becoming an Academy (with AET Academy sponsor), but other schools are actively considering the option.

#### **4. Strategic review of pupil places**

4.1 The above three factors imply a need for a strategic review.

4.2 Based on likely pupil projections for Springfield, the issue of insufficient places for those in catchment is unlikely to be an issue until 2013.

4.3 It is recommended that the City Council:

- Conduct a high level review this summer of pupil numbers in both primary and secondary schools
- To repeat the high level review on annual basis
- To develop a plan for managing pupil places as the new initiatives described above become clearer.

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