

**NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Scrutiny Panel 2 - The Move of the University of Northampton**

Your attendance is requested at a meeting to be held at The Jeffrey Room,  
The Guildhall, St. Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE on  
22 November 2018 at 6pm

**George Candler**  
**Chief Executive**

If you need any advice or information regarding this agenda please phone Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, 01604 837408 [ttiff@northampton.gov.uk](mailto:ttiff@northampton.gov.uk) who will be able to assist with your enquiry. For further information regarding **Scrutiny Panel 2 - Impact of the move of the University of Northampton** please visit the website [www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny)

### Members of the Panel

Chair	Councillor Graham Walker
Panel Members	Councillor Mohammed Azizur Rahman ( Aziz) Councillor Jane Birch Councillor Gareth Eales Councillor Penelope Flavell Councillor Samuel Kilby-Shaw Councillor Dennis Meredith Councillor Danielle Stone
Co-opted Member	Jane Bunce, University of Northampton

### Calendar of meetings

Date	Room
31 January 2019 6:00 pm 11 February 21 March	All meetings to be held in the Jeffery Room at the Guildhall unless otherwise stated

# Northampton Borough Scrutiny Panel 2 - Impact of the move of the University of Northampton Agenda

Item No and Time	Title	Pages	Action required
1. 6:00pm	<b>Apologies</b>		The Chair to note any apologies for absence.
2.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>		Members to state any interests. Declarations will be for the life of this Scrutiny Review.
3.	<b>Deputations/Public Address</b>		<p>The Chair to note public address requests.</p> <p>The public can speak on any agenda item for a maximum of three minutes per speaker per item. You are not required to register your intention to speak in advance but should arrive at the meeting a few minutes early, complete a <a href="#">Public Address Protocol</a> and notify the Scrutiny Officer of your intention to speak.</p>
4.	<b>Minutes</b>	<b>1</b>	The Scrutiny Panel to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2018.
5.	<b>Witness Evidence</b>	<b>6</b>	The Scrutiny Panel to receive a response to its core questions from a number of Expert Advisors:
5 (a) 6:05pm	<b>Neighbourhood Policing Team, Northants Police</b>		
5 (b) 6:25pm	<b>Representatives from the University of Northampton and the Student Union, University of Northampton</b>		
5 (c) 6:50pm	<b>Manager, Student Homes, Northampton</b>		
5 (d) 7:10pm	<b>Letting Agencies, Northampton</b>		

## NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF SCRUTINY PANEL 2 - IMPACT OF THE MOVE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON

Thursday, 13 September 2018

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Councillor Sam Kilby-Shaw (Deputy Chair), (In the Chair), Councillor Dennis Meredith

**CO-OPTED MEMBER:** Jane Bunce, University of Northampton

**Witnesses** Councillor Tim Hadland (Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise)  
Councillor James Hill (Deputy Cabinet Member for Planning)  
Councillor Stephen Hibbert (Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing)  
Councillor Anna King (Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Safety) and Chair of CSP

**Officer** Debi Waite, Private sector Housing Manager  
Ruth Austen, Environmental Health and Licensing Manager  
Derrick Simpson, Town Centre Manager

Councillor Mc Cutcheon - observing

Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Walker (Chair), Councillors Jane Birch, Vicky Culbard, Gareth Eales, Penny Flavell and Danielle Stone.

#### 2. DEPUTATIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESSES

There were none.

#### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

#### **4. MINUTES**

The Chair signed the minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2018 as a true and accurate record.

#### **5. WITNESS EVIDENCE**

Councillor Hadland (Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Enterprise) and Councillor James Hill (Deputy Cabinet Member for Planning) presented their responses to the core questions, elaborating on the salient points.

The Scrutiny Panel made comments, asked questions and heard:

- Concern was raised regarding buses and traffic flow on the Bedford Road. It was queried whether the traffic lights needed altering to cope with the traffic. It was confirmed buses had been running this route for some weeks.
- The Highways Authority has put in improvements to Bedford Road
- There is adequate staff parking (758 spaces) on the University site and they are also being encouraged to car share.
- The HMO Policy is being investigated and the results are expected shortly.
- With regard to parking, the Cabinet Member (Regeneration and Enterprise) advised this is unknown until students have arrive at the University.
- The students are a benefit to the town.
- In response to a query regarding planning on the University site, the Panel heard that there are currently about three vacant plots on site.

Councillor Hadland (Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise) and Councillor James Hill (Deputy Cabinet Member for Planning) were thanked for their address.

Councillor Anna King (Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Safety) and Chair of CSP, presented her response to the core questions, elaborating on the salient points.

The Scrutiny Panel made comments, asked questions and heard:

- The University is an excellent facility
- The University is working with the CSP
- The CCTV improvements in Beckett's park will commence week commencing 17 September 2018
- St John's MSCP car park has reached capacity on numerous days over the past year, the University has not had an impact on this car park at this time.
- The University will be invited to be involved in the Council's Forums
- The fresher students will be been given a tour of Northampton again this year; Officers and Councillors will also go into the University to meet with students
- The Night's Out Campaign is being developed with the University and Student's Union
- Northampton town centre achieved Purple Flag Status and the University will be working towards Purple Flag
- The move of the University will have a positive effect on the town, across many sectors including culture, retail, heritage and leisure

Councillor Anna King (Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Safety) was thanked for her address.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert (Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing) and Debi Waite, Private Sector Housing Manager, presented their response to the core questions, elaborating on the salient points.

The Scrutiny Panel made comments, asked questions and heard:

- There will be an inevitable impact on the area students move into and the area they leave behind
- Prices of houses may be driven up by the increased demand
- Agents are struggling to fill the HIMO's in the area that students have moved away from
- Enforcement of HIMO's is good. Where there is an Article 4 Direction in place this restricts approved HIMO numbers to 15% of properties in those areas.
- Multi Agency meetings are held to ensure good property rental properties are promoted
- The Multi Agency Group will have a stand at the Fresher's Fayre
- In answer to a query, it was confirmed there is no evidence which shows a correlation between beggars and the University moving to Waterside or students numbers in the town centre.
- There are 950 beds on site for students at Park Campus, and 250 at St George's Avenue campus, 450 beds at St John's Halls. There will be 3,000 new students but not all will chose to live on the Waterside site

Councillor Stephen Hibbert (Cabinet Member for Housing & Wellbeing) and Debi Waite, Private Sector Housing Manager were thanked for their address.

Ruth Austen, Environmental Health and Licensing Manager, presented her response to the core questions, elaborating on the salient points.

The Scrutiny Panel made comments, asked questions and heard:

- Student numbers are similar to previous years just in different locations, they would still have used the town centre, when located out of town
- There has not been a changed to the number of licensed premises in Kingsthorpe currently but change may occur around use and type rather than the number of licensed premises

Ruth Austen, Environmental Health and Licensing Manager was thanked for her address.

Derrick Simpson, Town Centre Manager, presented his response to the core questions, elaborating on the salient points.

The Scrutiny Panel made comments, asked questions and heard:

- The Town Centre Manager has been working with the University for the past year regarding safety issues, which includes park and ride, safer routes, CCTV, Lighting etc.
- It is expected that the daytime economy will change and there will be early evening opportunities for businesses
- Traffic modelling has been undertaken as part of the planning application and parking levels will be monitored.
- Taxi marshals will be introduced shortly to assist the night time economy and Street Pastors are already in place.

Derrick Simpson, Town Centre Manager was thanked for his address.

## **6. WRITTEN EVIDENCE**

The written evidence, submitted by a ward Councillor was noted.

## **7. ENERGY CENTRE UPDATE**

Jane Bunce, Co Optee, presented her briefing note to the Scrutiny Panel highlighting the salient points.

The Panel asked questions and made comment:

- In response to a query regarding solar panel, the Panel was advised that the roofs are flat and all energy saving options had been investigated. There are green roofs in situ.
- Natural ventilation is used, whereby the vents are open in all the rooms at night.

Jane Bunce was thanked for the information provided which would inform the evidence base of this Scrutiny review.

## **8. SITE VISITS**

Councillor Sam Kilby Shaw, Deputy Chair, advised the Scrutiny Panel of Councillor Walker's comments in respect of the recent site visit:

"The parking problem is not going to go away,  
But if I may say it's something that we need to continue to keep looking into, can I say I was very impressed with the university,  
It will bring more to Northampton than any other project in past 30 years."

The Scrutiny Panel noted the briefing note, in particular the conclusions:

The Scrutiny Panel was impressed by the high standard of the facilities provided and the excellent finish.

The Halls of Residence will provide an excellent facility for students.

The Scrutiny Panel was concerned regarding the lack of parking facility (park and ride) on the east of the town but noted that discussions are taking place regarding

this. The extent of any difference to parking will not be realised until the new academic year.

The Scrutiny Panel felt that the new site is an asset to the town, providing facilities for all to use, such as the café and restaurant. It was also pleased that the site is a community site and during the visit, people walking their dogs through the site were observed.

The Scrutiny Panel was pleased that students will receive both safety talks from the University and personal safety talks from the Police and Fire Service upon their arrival.

The findings from the site visit would inform the evidence base of the Scrutiny review.

The meeting concluded at 19:52 hours



NORTHAMPTON  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

### SCRUTINY PANEL 2 – The Move of the University of Northampton

The Scrutiny Panel is currently undertaking a review: The Move of the University of Northampton

The purpose of the Review is to review the impact on the town and local areas; including student accommodation

#### CORE QUESTIONS:

A series of key questions have been put together to inform the evidence base of the Scrutiny Panel:

- 1 Please provide information of the work being undertaken by:

The University of Northampton, Northampton Borough Council (NBC), and other partners to support the relocation of the University (*specific organisation to be put to the specific expert advisor e.g NBC to the Cabinet Member*)

- 2 Please provide your opinion on the social, cultural, physical, economic and environmental effects of the move of the University. *Please can you aim to keep your response to this question to a maximum of 250 words*
- 3 Please provide your views on the positive impact and challenges, across the various areas of the town, in respect of the move of the University. *(NB the various areas such as town centre, Bedford Road, Far Cotton, Beckett's Park, Avenue Campus, Park Campus, Kingsthorpe village will be included in this core question to the relevant expert advisor)*
- 4 Do you have any other information, concerns or suggestions you wish to raise in relation to the move of the University of Northampton?



## SCRUTINY PANEL 2 – The Move of the University of Northampton

### Response from Sgt Lorna CLARKE – University Policing Team

#### CORE QUESTIONS:

- 1 Please provide information of the work being undertaken by:

The University of Northampton, Northampton Borough Council (NBC), and other partners to support the relocation of the University (*specific organisation to be put to the specific expert advisor e.g NBC to the Cabinet Member*)

I manage a team of 5 PC's who all work solely within the University of Northampton. We are based at the Waterside Campus, but cover all 5 University sites across Northampton. My team works very closely with campus security supporting any issues that would affect both our departments.

Students have settled well into the Waterside Campus and are used to seeing my team out and about, we are developing a positive relationship with the students to encourage engagement and flow of information.

The bulk of our work at the University relates to crime investigation/disruption and prevention.

- 2 Please provide your opinion on the social, cultural, physical, economic and environmental effects of the move of the University. *Please can you aim to keep your response to this question to a maximum of 250 words*

The University has a unique demographic in that the bulk of the students living on site are aged 18-21. Although they live across 4 of the University sites their move onto waterside has been the most disruptive for the residents of this area as they are not at all used to this.

There is increased tensions between residents off the New South Bridge Road entrance to the University and they have raised several complaints with police and the University about parking and anti-social behaviour. The University has arranged residents meeting to acknowledge and then try and address these concerns, but this will be an ongoing piece of work.

Police are supporting by disrupting any criminal behaviour on the campus, we have taken steps wherever possible to identify suspects and proceed against them where evidence supports. Where this is not possible we assist with collating the evidence for the discipline procedures. This supports the university by enabling them to take tough action against those few students who are intent on causing disturbance to others and in the long term will make for a better environment at the University for both the students and the residents.

The students do spend their money in the local area, they can often be seen off campus in the nearby shops, which supports the local business to this site. I am not aware on an increase in criminality at these business.

- 3 Please provide your views on the positive impact and challenges, across the various areas of the town, in respect of the move of the University. *(NB the various areas such as town centre, Bedford Road, Far Cotton, Beckett's Park, Avenue Campus, Park Campus, Kingsthorpe village will be included in this core question to the relevant expert advisor)*

This move has increased the footfall to all local business, St Leonards Road is nearby and contains a lot of small 'unbranded' business and students can often be seen in and around this area and will shop local to this site. They also now have easy access to the town centre and I understand the night-time economy has seen additional numbers especially around student nights, which is now Monday and Wednesday.

Becketts Park has also had an increase of CCTV and lighting as a result of the move with the 'safe-route' for students running up the westerly edge. During the daytime the park also has more people using it from the students attending the site.

The main challenges are around the parking and anti-social behaviour that local residents are struggling with. Police and the University are working with residents to work through solutions to try and tackle this issue.

My team specifically are looking to disrupt drug dealing in this area, this is not a new issue to this area, but would have increased with the move of the university.

We are tackling this on the streets around this area but also our presence on campus means we can address this from the inside. We are actively targeting anyone who has infiltrated the University purely for criminal means.

- 4 Do you have any other information, concerns or suggestions you wish to raise in relation to the move of the University of Northampton?

The move of the University has brought a huge change to the residents of Far Cotton, this was always going to happen, but the University is engaging with them to support them through. This will settle down in time but will be assisted by some positive changes, especially in terms of parking.

The other side of the University is parkland and the larger business' off Bedford Road, and there have been minimal issues this side.

The easier access to the town centre means the students can access and financially support services and business there. Them now easily accessing the 'High Street' rather than out of town shopping areas, can only bring a much needed boost to this area.

While there are clearly some challenges with putting this many students into a new location I believe the wider picture as above, and with the introduction of the policing team at the university, should result in overall this move being positive.



NORTHAMPTON  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

### SCRUTINY PANEL 2 – The Move of the University of Northampton

#### Agenda Item 5b

The Scrutiny Panel is currently undertaking a review: The Move of the University of Northampton

The purpose of the Review is to review the impact on the town and local areas; including student accommodation

#### CORE QUESTIONS:

A series of key questions have been put together to inform the evidence base of the Scrutiny Panel:

- 1 Please provide information of the work being undertaken by:

The University of Northampton, Northampton Borough Council (NBC), and other partners to support the relocation of the University (*specific organisation to be put to the specific expert advisor e.g NBC to the Cabinet Member*)

- *The Director of Student and Academic Services is a member of the Scrutiny Panel;*
- *The Chief Operating Officer is a member of the SEMLEP Board;*
- *The Director of Student and Academic Services is a member of the Enterprise Zone Executive Group*
- *The University is engaged with the Northampton Landlords' Association;*
- *The Students' Union has established a vulnerability centre at The Platform for vulnerable adults on a night out;*
- *The University is engaged with various Residents' Associations, most particularly Far Cotton;*
- *There is a University member on the Park Management Committees for both Becketts and Delapre;*
- *The Students' Union is engaged with Pubwatch;*
- *The University is engaged with Street Angels;*

- *The President of the Students' Union is involved in the Knife Crime Group.*

**2** Please provide your opinion on the

- **Social** – *in addition to sporting facilities on campus (which we are hoping to make available to members of the public once the timetable has settled), the University has been working with a range of sporting organisations including:*
  - *Northampton Town Football Club – of which the University is principal sponsor;*
  - *Northampton Rugby Club – of which the University was a former sponsor and is re-establishing links;*
  - *Northampton Leisure Trust – which provides discounted access to the Cripps Recreation Centre for University staff and students.*
- **Cultural** – *the University is increasing its relationship with Royal and Derngate and NN Gallery as key members of the Cultural Quarter. The University has also been working with the Heritage Lottery Fund in relation to the grant for the Engine Shed on campus and associated historical walks and presentations which have been delivered by the researcher on the project. Members of the public are also able to access selected learning resources on campus as Associate Members of the library.*
- **Physical** – *the University's relocation has created brand new buildings and a refurbished Grade 2 listed building in Northampton town centre. There is now improved access to the south of the river at Becketts Park via the footbridge and an alternative access to the Avon Building via the University bridge on University Drive. There are almost 1,000 bedspaces on campus for students and a 32-bedroom hotel for members of the public to use.*
- **Economic** – *in two reports published in 2015, it was identified that the University created a total economic impact of £244million in Northampton, with a further £45million in the rest of Northamptonshire. A further report exploring the university's social impact detailed how, by embedding social initiatives throughout its work, the University has delivered student volunteering worth over £800,000 to the local community and supported a total number of 3,172 clients to set up their own social enterprises or businesses.*
- **Environmental** – *the University took the active decision not to provide parking for students, to introduce a park and ride for staff and students, to adopt green energy in the fuelling of the campus and actively promote cycling onto and around campus. In addition,*

*there will be a positive effect on the environment around Boughton Green Road where the former Park Campus was based.*

3 Please provide your views on the positive impact

**Positive**

*The relocation of the University is having a positive Impact on footfall in the town centre and is likely to lead to increased use of the facilities based in the town centre such as the restaurants and bars. Supermarkets near to the campus are likely to see an increase in sales and in addition the on-campus supermarket, McColls is available to the public and also includes a post office open from 7.30am-11pm which is a community asset.*

*The campus has been built on a derelict Brownfield site which has created a new space within the town centre and improved access to Delapre Park via the public right of way. The campus has architecturally relevant buildings and grounds which are providing an attraction to those visiting the campus.*

*The relocation can also be seen as a positive in Kingsthorpe where, in addition to the 900 bedspaces still occupied by the University, homes are going to be located on the space previously occupied by the University, which is in keeping with the locality and will provide additional sales to those shops in the north of the town.*

*Waterside has its own health centre which provides students with access to a doctor on site rather than in an existing surgery.*

**Challenges,**

*The current challenges identified by the University relate to the impact of the relocation on local residents and on parking and road use in and around the campus.*

4 Do you have any other information, concerns or suggestions you wish to raise in relation to the move of the University of Northampton?

No