

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 29 May 2018

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillor Graham Walker (Chair), Councillor Sam Kilby Shaw (Deputy Chair) Councillors Aziz, Jane Birch, Penny Flavell, Kilby-Dennis Meredith and Danielle Stone

Officers Derrick Simpson, Town Centre Manager
Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

Members of the Public Thomas Appleyard, Patrick Cross, Patricia Masters, Deborah Mattock

Press James Averill, Democracy Reporter

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed all those present to the inaugural meeting of Scrutiny Panel 2.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gareth Eales and Councillor Vicky Culbard.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Sam Kilby-Shaw, Councillor Jane Birch, Councillor Penny Flavell and Councillor Graham Walker declared interests as the site of the new University are within their wards. The declarations were declared for the life of this Scrutiny Review.

4. DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC ADDRESS

Thomas Appleyard, individual, addressed the Scrutiny Panel. He commented that in his opinion this Scrutiny Review was welcomed and he went on to convey his concerns regarding confusion regarding the orbital road and that he felt this should open at the same time as the Relief Road. He then commented about congestion and the impact on a town supermarket. He urged the Scrutiny Panel to consider involving local residents in its evidence gathering.

Mr Appleyard was thanked for his address.

Patrick Cross, Chair, WASRA Residents' Association, addressed the Scrutiny Panel. He advised that he lives near to the current site of the University and is also an Associate Lecturer at the University. He commented that there will be no student car parking on the new campus; acknowledging the provision of a park and ride which he felt would be good and robust but was concerned it will be located at Sixfields. It could impact upon traffic around St James. He felt there is a need for another park and ride in the opposite side of

town. Mr Cross felt this would make the park and ride system more robust. He went on to comment about more signage needed and the possibility of residents' parking around Waterside.

Mr Cross was thanked for his address.

5. SCOPE OF THE REVIEW

The Scrutiny Panel, considered in depth, the draft scope for the Review – Impact of the Move of the University of Northampton, making a number of updates and further inclusions.

AGREED: That the scope of the Review – Impact of the Move of the University of Northampton , is presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 20 June 2018 for approval.

The meeting concluded at 6:50 pm



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

SCRUTINY PANEL 2 – The Move of the University of Northampton

1. Purpose/Objectives of the Review

To review the impact on the town and local areas; including student accommodation

Key Lines of Enquiry

- To understand the work currently being undertaken by the University of Northampton, Northampton Borough Council (NBC), and other partners regarding the move of the University
- To gain an understanding of the social, cultural, physical, economic and environmental effects of the move of the University
- To gain an understanding of the challenges, including all areas of the town, in respect of the move of the University
- To gain an understanding of the implications of the move of the University

2. Outcomes Required

- To understand the impact of the move of the University and to make recommendations, as appropriate.

3. Information Required

- Background data
- Background reports
- Best practice data
- Desktop research
- Evidence from expert internal witnesses
- Evidence from expert external witnesses

- Site visits (if applicable)

4. Format of Information

- Background data, including:
 - Presentation to set the scene:
 - Work currently being undertaken regarding the move of the University
 - Number and areas of student accommodation
 - Statistics:
 - Financial data
 - Students
 - Footfall
- Internal expert advisors:
 - Cabinet Member for Housing and Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning, NBC
 - Ward Councillors, NBC
 - Town Centre Manager
 - Cabinet Member for Community Safety, NBC
 - Chair of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the Community Safety Team
 - Environmental Health and Licensing Manager
 - Head of Assets and Regeneration
 - Private Sector Housing Manager
- External expert advisors:
 - Head of Protecting Vulnerable Persons, Northamptonshire Police
 - Representatives from the University of Northampton and the Student Union, University of Northampton
 - Manager, Student Homes, Northampton
 - Letting Agencies, Northampton
 - Executive Director, Town Centre BID
 - Director, PubWatch
 - Residents' Associations, groups such as Friends of Parks Groups etc.

- Site visit(s): student accommodation, University of Northampton campus

5. Methods Used to Gather Information

- Minutes of meetings
- Desktop research
- Site visits
- Officer reports
- Presentations
- Examples of best practice
- Witness Evidence:-

➤ Key witnesses as detailed in section 4 of this scope

6. Co-Options to the Review

- Terry Neville, Chief Operating Officer, University of Northampton, to be approached suggesting that he, or his representative, is co-opted to this Review for its life.

7. Community Impact Screening Assessment

- A Community Impact Screening Assessment to be undertaken on the scope of the Review

8. Evidence gathering Timetable

May 2018 – March 2019

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|-------------------|-------------------------|
| • 29 May 2018 | - Scoping meeting |
| • 12 July | - Evidence gathering |
| • 13 September | - Evidence gathering |
| • 22 November | - Evidence gathering |
| • 31 January 2019 | - Evidence gathering |
| • 11 February | - Evidence gathering |
| • 21 March | - Approval final report |

Various site visits will be programmed during this period, if required.

Meetings to commence at 6.00 pm

9. Responsible Officers

Peter Baguley, Head of Planning

Marion Goodman, Head of Customers and Cultural Services

Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

10. Final report presented by:

Completed by March 2019. Presented by the Chair of the Panel to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then to Cabinet.

11. Monitoring procedure:

Review the impact of the report after six months (approximately November/December 2019)