

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Thursday, 12 July 2018

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

CO-OPTED MEMBER: Jane Bunce, University of Northampton

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

Members of the Public One member of the public was present

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Culbard and Meredith.

At this point, the Chair welcomed Jane Bunce, University of Northampton, (Co Optee) to the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. DEPUTATIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESSES

There were none.

4. MINUTES

Subject to the update below being included into minute 4 – Deputations and Public Addresses in respect of Mr Cross' address:

“there needs to be more and clearer signs for cyclist routes in and around the Town (especially the Drapery) so other vehicle drivers are more aware of cyclists and Residents around the south of Northampton including Delapre, Far Cotton et environs, need to be parking permit holders, so students do not park in their streets.” In place of “more signage needed and the possibility of residents’ parking around Waterside”

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 May 2018 were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

5. PRESENTATION TO SET THE SCENE

Derrick Simpson, Town Centre Manager, gave the Scrutiny Panel a presentation that set the scene. He highlighted the salient points.

The Scrutiny Panel made comment, asked questions and heard:

- Over 12,000 students expected at the University
- The University recycles its own waste
- The bio mast was referred to and it was noted that the Panel would have sight of this on its site visit. The Co-Optee undertook to provide a report on the bio mast to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Panel
- In response to a query regarding the ratio of students to accommodation; the Co Optee advised that there will be accommodation for 920 students on the new site, St John's Halls has 426, around 1,000 at Park campus accommodation for 250 students at Basset Law. In addition, there is accommodation around the town centre. It was noted that some students will continue to live at home, some will commute, for example from London and Milton Keynes. There is enough accommodation for first year students who want to live on site, plus accommodation for 2nd and 3rd year overseas students. Some students prefer accommodation in the town centre.
- The Scrutiny Panel commented that student accommodation is putting pressure on the housing market in the town centre. Parking was another concern that was raised.
- The potential increase to the footfall for the town was commended.
- Safeguarding and safety was referred to, in particular around the University Night club and the additional five Police Officers, paid for by the University.
- In response to a query regarding cuckooing, the Co Optee confirmed that she had not received evidence of such a situation at this time. There are robust partnership arrangements in place.
- The Park and Ride facilities will be in operation from 7am to 10pm and a bus will come every ten minutes. It costs £1 a day for anyone using it.
- It was suggested that pick up should be from the car park only and not from the bus stops along the way, this would prevent people parking on-street and then catching the park and ride bus. The Town Centre Manager undertook to find out if this could be possible.
- In answer to a query about parking capacity; it was confirmed that this was adequate. There are over 1900 spaces. Discussions are ongoing about an additional park and ride car park; but should one be introduced it would not be immediately.
- Additional CCTV has been installed in car parks, Becketts Park and the University Campus. The University will monitor the CCTV in the campus.
- The Scrutiny Panel commented that there is a need to widen the footpath opposite St John's and Beckett's Park and suggested that this be a potential recommendation of the final report. It was further suggested that the road is classed as "dual use" whereby if pedestrians crossing, vehicles have to stop.
- It was further suggested that this be suggested that this be a potential recommendation of the final report.

- Regarding emergency planning, on-going work is taking place with the various Agencies.
- It was realised that on the first week of the opening of the new University there will be some challenges, but there are meetings on-going that will continue to make sure the reason for any challenges is ascertained and the best way they can be managed. In response to a query about cycle routes;
- It was noted that there are cycle routes. Information would be obtained and reported to a future meeting; along with signage about cycle routes.
- The Scrutiny Panel highlighted the need to encourage students to cycle.

Derrick Simpson was thanked for his informative presentation.

6. CORE QUESTIONS

The Scrutiny Panel considered the draft core questions and made updates.

AGREED: That the core questions, as attached, are sent to the expert advisors, as detailed on the Scope of this Review

7. SITE VISITS

The Chair advised that the site visit would take place on 8 August 10 am at the University. It would last around 1.5 hours. The tour will be led by the Director of Student & Academic Services, Jane Bunce (Co Optee to the Panel.)

8. COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Community Impact Assessment for this Review was approved and would be published on the Overview and Scrutiny WebPage.



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?