



## **NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **SCRUTINY PANEL 2**

#### **IMPACT OF THE MOVE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON**

**13 SEPTEMBER 2018**

#### **BRIEFING NOTE: ENERGY CENTRE**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 At its previous meeting, Scrutiny Panel 2 (Impact of the move of the University of Northampton) agreed that it would receive information regarding the Energy Centre at the University to inform its evidence base.

### **2 ENERGY CENTRE**

- 2.1 The Energy Centre is powered by a 995KW biomass boiler with three 4MW gas boilers. This heat energy is connected to a highly efficient campus wide district heating system which provides the heating and hot water to the academic buildings and residencies. Vital Energi who installed the Energy Centre used pro-modelling software which calculated the Energy Centre will save 1,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> per year compared to a conventional system.
- 2.2 The woodchip fuel for the biomass boiler will be supplied by a local company Wilby Tree Surgeons which will further reduce CO<sub>2</sub> from transport mileage. Wilby Tree Surgeons also dry the wood using a biomass boiler which uses offcuts of waste wood from trees in Northamptonshire including from the University of Northampton estate.
- 2.3 Additional energy saving measures include efficient LED lighting, adjustable localised controls and PIR motion sensors in certain locations. The buildings have high thermal insulation and designed to use free cooling through natural ventilation which reduces the energy intensive use of air conditioning. The Senate building also received an EPC rating A which highlights these energy efficient measures.

### **3 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 That the information provided in this briefing note informs the evidence base of this Scrutiny Review.

Author: Jane Bunce, Co Optee

13 August 2018