



NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY PANEL 2

IMPACT OF THE MOVE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON

13 SEPTEMBER 2018

BRIEFING NOTE: SITE VISIT

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its inaugural scoping meeting, Scrutiny Panel 2 (Impact of the move of the University of Northampton) agreed that it would undertake a site visit to inform its evidence base.
- 1.2 In setting its scope (terms of reference), the Scrutiny Panel suggested a site visit to the University of Northampton at its new site in the town centre.
- 1.3 Detailed below are the findings from the site visit .

2 SITE VISIT

2.1 University of Northampton

- 2.1.1 Councillor Graham Walker, Chair, Councillors Aziz and Jane Birch, together with Derrick Simpson, Town Centre Manager, and Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, visited the University on Wednesday, 8 August 2018.
- 2.1.2 The site visit walked from the Guildhall to the University, noting along the way that it was expected that this would be a popular walking route for students from the University to the town centre, through Beckett's park.
- 2.1.3 The University site will be a community site, whereby people can walk around the site. There is a public right of way through the site to Delapre. People can also sign up to formal visits and tours of the University. ID cards will be issued to all visitors.
- 2.1.4 There are three bus routes to and from the University.
- 2.1.5 The site visit observed various areas of the University:

Sports Dome

A temporary multi purpose facility, with a lifespan of around 10 years
For student use and teaching

Sports Science Pavilion

Comprises Labs, changing rooms and teaching facilities

Students Union Area

Unlicensed
Social Space

Student Town House

Communal kitchen, dining and lounge area
Kitchen has two cookers, three fridge freezers, one microwave
12 bedrooms and two shared bathrooms
Bedding/pots/pans/cutlery is not provided
Students sign up to communal living
Cost: £138 per week

Launderette

Students can use the launderette

Sunley Hotel

32 bedded hotel on site – anyone can stay here
Parking is currently in the town centre, although it is expected most residents will use public transport

Chaplaincy

Two prayer rooms

Health Centre

Acknowledged that mental health issues are increasing in students

Student Reception

Keys and ID cards issues

Signage

Excellent signage around the site

Corporate Entertaining Space

Excellent facility

Library

Excellent facility with provision of work space, charging points and plugs
Lots of space for students to work

There is also a role play area regarding health psychology and criminal justice.

Paramedic Science

Excellent facility with a top of the range, new ambulance on site

Sensory Deprivation Room

For use in health psychology

Occupational Therapy and Education areas

Superb facilities provided

Restaurant and Café

Will be open to anyone to use

Visitor Centre with Shop

Provision for both students and visitors

Car Parking

758 spaces on site. Investigations are taking place for a park and ride at the east of the town.

- 2.1.6 Within the first week of arrival students are visited and given a talk on safety, including kitchen safety. The Police will also give them a talk around personal safety.

3 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Panel was impressed by the high standard of the facilities provided and the excellent finish.
- 3.2 The Halls of Residence will provide an excellent facility for students.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 The Scrutiny Panel was pleased that students will receive both safety talks from the University and personal safety talks from the Police upon their arrival.

4 RECOMMENDATION

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

Author: Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Graham Walker, Chair, Scrutiny Panel 2 – Impact of the Move of the University

8 August 2018