



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*)

N/A

- 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**

I believe that having a university in Northampton brings tremendous benefits to the town. The University provides a cultural and social hub and brings high value professional jobs to the town. Simply having a university encourages other investment.

The move to the new waterside campus as by its very nature caused some disruption but when things settle down I think that this huge investment will bring benefits both to the town and university. The investment has already generated jobs in the construction industry and improved the environment and

infrastructure in a long neglected corner of the town. Hopefully Northampton will become increasingly known as a town with a riverside rather than a place with a river.

- 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)

The eventual closure of both the Park and Avenue Campuses will bring challenges for the communities that surround them but there is a great opportunity to develop new communities on these sites which are in sustainable locations near to parks and open spaces.

Two final points.

- ① I believe that NBC should work with UNO Bus company to provide a sustainable public transport for Northampton.
- ② With all due respect shouldn't this survey have been done prior to the decision of the council to loan money (£30m?) for the move.

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

None