

## SCRUTINY PANEL 2 – The Move of the University of Northampton

### Response to core questions from Environmental Health and Licensing Team

- 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

*The team are aware of work that has been carried out by the University, NBC, the Police and a range of partners for example to achieve Purple Flag accreditation and to develop safe working routes between the campus and the town centre.*

- 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***

*The move of the University will clearly have a significant impact on all aspects of live in the town. Some impacts will be positive and some negative more details on specific factors which are within the remit of the team are outlined in the response to question 3 below.*

- 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 potential impacts which are relevant to the work of the team are:*

#### ***Air pollution / air quality***

*The changes in the traffic flow patterns are likely to have air quality impacts both in the area around the new campus and in the Kingsthorpe area and with vehicle movements to dedicated park and ride sites on the western side of the town centre. There is potential for both negative and positive impacts. The areas around St Peters Way / Victoria Promenade and the Kingsthorpe corridor are existing air quality management areas and ongoing of levels of NOx is carried out using passive diffusion tubes. It will therefore be possible to obtain objective measurements of the impact.*

## **Noise / Antisocial Behaviour / Waste issues**

*The relocation of the campus is already having an impact on the location and type of use of private rented accommodation in Northampton. It is likely that there will be a reduction in the number of properties used for student accommodation in the Kingsthorpe area. Some of these properties may be used as single family homes and others will continue to be rented out by landlords. There is potential that properties that are currently only occupied during term time may be occupied all year round. It is also possible that the lifestyle of some of the occupiers may not be totally compatible with that of some of their neighbours. There may also be a more rapid turnover of the tenants within some properties than as student properties and this may lead to problems with incorrect presentation of refuse and recycling as new tenants may not be aware of collection arrangements.*

*In the areas closer to the new campus, there is already an increase in the number of individual properties being converted into student lets. The occupation patterns will be different to that of single family homes and this has the potential to lead to noise and waste complaints*

*The move has also resulted in the conversion of a number of larger premises in the town centre for student accommodation. The location of these properties may mean that occupiers are subject to unacceptable levels of external noise from the night time economy and from activity within the town centre. It should not be assumed that just because a property is occupied by students that it is acceptable for it to be subject to high noise levels.*

## **Licensing**

*The increase in numbers of students living in and near to the town centre presents opportunities for the development of additional late night venues / bars / takeaways. The client group of existing venues is also likely to change. These changes may impact on the workload of the Licensing team. In ensuring that the licensing objectives are met*

*There is some possibility of an increase in the number of applications for premises licences in the central part of the town and it is proposed to carry out an investigation of the need for the development of a cumulative impact policy as part of the ongoing review of the Council's statement of licensing policy.*

*The comments made are based on current experience of officers within the Environmental Health and Licensing team. However it is recognised that the comments contain significant generalisations and it will only be possible to evaluate the actual impact of the move of the university of the move of the university once the new campus has been operating for some time.*

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

*No*