



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*)

The Community Safety Partnership has a Community Safety Plan which details how it will work, collectively with partners to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. The University is an active partner and is represented on the working/tasking groups of the Community Safety Partnership, including the Town Centre Tasking Group and the Community Safety Officers Group.

The Town Centre Task Group, consists of the following partners; Northampton Borough Council's Community Safety & Engagement Team, Town Centre Manager, CCTV, Town Centre Police Sgt, the Crime Prevention Team, the Student Union, University of Northampton, Town Centre Business Improvement District, the Street Pastors and the Licensing Team.

The following initiatives are being developed within the working group;

- ***Safer Routes Home initiative (the safest route has been mapped out and will be marked to direct students from the Campus to the Town Centre and vice versa, the route is well lit and has good CCTV coverage)***

- ***Taxi Marshalling Scheme (two taxi marshals will be funded to work on a Fri and Sat evening, they will cover Fresher's week, bank holidays and pay weekends)***
- ***'Nights Out' campaign, community safety promotional materials produced, including a fold out leaflet with key messages on how to stay safe on a night out, (previously this leaflet has been very popular with students), we have also had posters, mirror wraps, social media campaigns and a torch and reusable bag produced to help further promote community safety messages.***

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*

We have been working in collaboration with the University and partner agencies to identify some of the anticipated effects in relation to community safety as a result of the relocation of the University to the Town Centre. These discussions have been mainly focused around;

- ***The night-time economy, increased numbers of students in the Town Centre, not only at the weekend, but during student nights too (Mondays and Wednesdays) as the Student Union is in the Town Centre, potential increase in alcohol related violence and anti-social behaviour.***
- ***Personal safety, being vulnerable and unfamiliar with the Town Centre (particularly relevant to new students).***

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)*

Potential positive impacts for the town centre in terms of footfall to the businesses. Also provides additional challenges particularly in terms of policing – as demonstrated by recent action/additional police resource.

Challenges discussed in the Town centre Tasking Group regarding the park and ride, and impact on town centre driving at peak time, particularly in the first term whilst students are learning their way and previous students are adjusting to no longer having parking available.

Increased footfall in Becket's Park - inclusion of CCTV and lighting improvements should benefit the park as a whole as a result of action taken by the university on the guidance of the crime prevention team.

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

N/A