



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*)

Town Centre Operations Management includes parking, CCTV, bus station, markets, bus station, events and partnership working.

The Town Centre Manager (TCM) engages with many business partners including the BID, University, Grosvenor Management, Blue Light Services and attends many partnership meetings including the Community Safety Partnership, Town Centre Task Group, Bus Station Safety Group, Events Safety Advisory Group and more.

Across all these area community safety is a key aspect and working collectively with partners to tackle anti-social behaviour.

TCM has been working closely with the University on many areas related to public and student safety, this includes improving the lighting and CCTV facilities in Becketts Park, working on a safer routes project which identifies key routes into the town centre from the University. Improving CCTV functionality at Edgar Mobbs Way to support the Universities Park & Ride facility.

Provision of the WASH (welfare and safety hub) at the Platform for night time economy. Working on marketing campaigns to support users of the night time economy.

- 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 TCM has been working in collaboration with the University and other agencies for many months to identify some of the likely impacts the Waterside Campus could have on the town centre.

This has included areas around traffic, parking, emergency planning, economic impact, safety, waste and more.

The town centre will see an increase in traffic levels coming into the town centre along Bedford Road from A45, London Road, around Victoria Promenade and St Peters Way.

The demand for parking around the University will increase but actual increased demand numbers are not know at this time.

It is likely pedestrian flow from the train station into the town centre and down to the University will increase and improved signage is being explored.

The nigh time economy will grow significantly during term time especially around Mercers Row and Bridge Street.

A number of property conversions from commercial to residential in the town centre have already been approved and therefore the number of people living in the town centre will increase.

With the increase in vehicle numbers and pedestrians the pressure on street cleaning will increase.

Personal safety for residents, students, visitors and workers will need to be monitored and the police may well have to review their policing model for the town centre.

The Waterside Campus provides a positive opportunity for businesses in the town centre to attract new customers and build their customer base. The available spending in the town centre will increase significantly.

- 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)

There are many positive impacts for the town centre such as footfall and spend which will support local businesses during the day and night time.

There will be challenges in terms of operations for the council and other partners like the police. As Northampton will become a student town similar to Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham and many more and we need to learn from their experiences.

The council, police and other partners need to be able to adapt / change quickly to support the needs of the new town centre.

The University have already invested in many areas include bus services, park & ride, CCTV, Lighting, police resources and more.

All partners will need to manage these changes effectively and not have a 'knee-jerk' reaction to these changes. When the University opens challenges will include park and ride facilities, workers, shoppers, visitors accessing the town centre at peak time (especially in the first term), parking availability in the south of the town centre.

Beckets Park will become more popular and see significant increases in footfall and the additional CCTV and lighting improvements will benefit all users of the park.

General comments:

Far Cotton - there is a potential for students to use roads close to the campus for parking.

Park Campus – over 600 students will remain living at park campus and these will need to be supported.

Avenue Campus - over 200 students will remain living at avenue campus and these will need to be supported.

Park & Ride facilities are being provided from both sites at intervals of 10 minutes throughout the day during the week

The new planned housing at park campus will support the local businesses in 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?

Maximising the opportunities the new Waterside Campus provides to all businesses within and around the town centre.