



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

SCRUTINY PANEL 2 – The Move of the University of Northampton

Agenda Item 5b

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 Director of Student and Academic Services is a member of the Scrutiny Panel;*
- *The Chief Operating Officer is a member of the SEMLEP Board;*
- *The Director of Student and Academic Services is a member of the Enterprise Zone Executive Group*
- *The University is engaged with the Northampton Landlords' Association;*
- *The Students' Union has established a vulnerability centre at The Platform for vulnerable adults on a night out;*
- *The University is engaged with various Residents' Associations, most particularly Far Cotton;*
- *There is a University member on the Park Management Committees for both Becketts and Delapre;*
- *The Students' Union is engaged with Pubwatch;*
- *The University is engaged with Street Angels;*

- *The President of the Students' Union is involved in the Knife Crime Group.*

2 Please provide your opinion on the

- **Social** – *in addition to sporting facilities on campus (which we are hoping to make available to members of the public once the timetable has settled), the University has been working with a range of sporting organisations including:*
 - *Northampton Town Football Club – of which the University is principal sponsor;*
 - *Northampton Rugby Club – of which the University was a former sponsor and is re-establishing links;*
 - *Northampton Leisure Trust – which provides discounted access to the Cripps Recreation Centre for University staff and students.*
- **Cultural** – *the University is increasing its relationship with Royal and Derngate and NN Gallery as key members of the Cultural Quarter. The University has also been working with the Heritage Lottery Fund in relation to the grant for the Engine Shed on campus and associated historical walks and presentations which have been delivered by the researcher on the project. Members of the public are also able to access selected learning resources on campus as Associate Members of the library.*
- **Physical** – *the University's relocation has created brand new buildings and a refurbished Grade 2 listed building in Northampton town centre. There is now improved access to the south of the river at Becketts Park via the footbridge and an alternative access to the Avon Building via the University bridge on University Drive. There are almost 1,000 bedspaces on campus for students and a 32-bedroom hotel for members of the public to use.*
- **Economic** – *in two reports published in 2015, it was identified that the University created a total economic impact of £244million in Northampton, with a further £45million in the rest of Northamptonshire. A further report exploring the university's social impact detailed how, by embedding social initiatives throughout its work, the University has delivered student volunteering worth over £800,000 to the local community and supported a total number of 3,172 clients to set up their own social enterprises or businesses.*
- **Environmental** – *the University took the active decision not to provide parking for students, to introduce a park and ride for staff and students, to adopt green energy in the fuelling of the campus and actively promote cycling onto and around campus. In addition,*

there will be a positive effect on the environment around Boughton Green Road where the former Park Campus was based.

3 Please provide your views on the positive impact

Positive

The relocation of the University is having a positive Impact on footfall in the town centre and is likely to lead to increased use of the facilities based in the town centre such as the restaurants and bars. Supermarkets near to the campus are likely to see an increase in sales and in addition the on-campus supermarket, McColls is available to the public and also includes a post office open from 7.30am-11pm which is a community asset.

The campus has been built on a derelict Brownfield site which has created a new space within the town centre and improved access to Delapre Park via the public right of way. The campus has architecturally relevant buildings and grounds which are providing an attraction to those visiting the campus.

The relocation can also be seen as a positive in Kingsthorpe where, in addition to the 900 bedspaces still occupied by the University, homes are going to be located on the space previously occupied by the University, which is in keeping with the locality and will provide additional sales to those shops in the north of the town.

Waterside has its own health centre which provides students with access to a doctor on site rather than in an existing surgery.

Challenges,

The current challenges identified by the University relate to the impact of the relocation on local residents and on parking and road use in and around the campus.

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