

CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
14 MARCH 2019	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Jonathan Lewis, Director of Education	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Lynne Ayres, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University	
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THE UNIVERSITY OF PETERBOROUGH UPDATE REPORT

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM: The Director for Education AND Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University.	Deadline date: N/A

It is recommended that the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee:

1. Note the content of the report and the history and progress to date in securing a University in Peterborough that has degree awarding powers.

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee requested a report giving an overview and progress on the University of Peterborough.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The City of Peterborough has for some time had the ambition of establishing a University of Peterborough (UoP). The Devolution Agreement with Government has allowed for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) to progress this project in partnership with Peterborough City Council, Anglia Ruskin University and Peterborough Regional College. This report provides an overview and explains the progress to date of the University of Peterborough.

2.2 This report is for the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by Council :

Education, including

- a) University and Higher Education;
- b) Youth Service;
- c) Careers; and
- d) Special Needs and Inclusion.

- 2.3 This report links to the Corporate Priorities by giving an overview and progress on the development of a University of Peterborough that will give wider access for local residents to study Higher Education, thus supporting the growth of aspirations and improving the education and skill levels of our local population.
- 2.4 This report links to the Children in Care Pledge as the creation of a University of Peterborough will create more local opportunities for accessing higher education.

3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 **History and Time Line**

The Principles of the University of Peterborough (UoP) will support the City to achieve its economic potential by providing excellent Higher Education (HE) that will boost all parts of the economy.

There has been in existence, in one form or another, a University of Peterborough stakeholder group since July 2015. However, it gained more momentum with the creation of the Combined Authority (May 17) following the agreement to become a devolved area and the University forming part of the devolution agreement (June 16). This stakeholder group currently consists of 4 organizations that have had a veto; Anglia Ruskin University (ARU), Peterborough Regional College (PRC), Peterborough City Council (PCC) and The Combined Authority (CA). The steering group has served to develop the concept and will, as of March, become an advisory group for a University Shadow Board. Sir Les Ebdon was appointed as the Chair of the Shadow Council of University Centre Peterborough in November 2018.

Below is a brief history of progress to date.

- **Phase 1** of the project, which was funded by the LEP, will be completed in October 2019.
- **Phase 2** - In June 2017, the Combined Authority has been working with PRC, ARU and PCC to move the next stage of the University forward. The Combined Authority has secured circa £13m for this and the next stage is to do the full costing

To become an independent higher education provider University Centre Peterborough (UCP) must change its status to apply to the Office for Students (OfS). This means that from August 2019 it can no longer be part of a joint venture with Anglia Ruskin University. UCP has submitted registration to the OfS and intends to register as an approved fee cap provider which allows an institution to charge the higher tuition fee levels. Governance arrangements, curriculum and other regulatory requirements have been addressed and the appropriate milestones achieved.

The Priorities and Vision

The University will be a powerhouse for economic and intellectual growth across the region of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and the surrounding area, addressing the current HE cold-spot. The University will be outward-looking, working with employers, other education providers and the wider community to raise aspirations and skills. Its characteristics will be:

- 'a thriving independent campus-based university'
- A new model of a university fit for the 2020s and beyond
- A high quality provider initially focusing on teaching excellence
- A provider of excellent student experience and graduate outcomes
- A catalyst to improve educational achievement and social mobility

In order to achieve this UCP must ensure that its evolution:

- Increases the participation of young people in higher education and seeks to retain them within the region in high skilled employment.
- Embraces digital connectivity
- Addresses the non-competitive skills base addressing the areas identified within the Hatch Regeneris, *Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Skills Strategy Evidence Based Report (2018)*. (this report can be supplied on request)
- Addresses deprivation through improved educational attainment and employment opportunities
- Supports and enables on-going workforce development and upskilling
- Supports communities and has a civic function valued by the people of the Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and the surrounding areas
- Provides a workforce able to support the skills shortage in both the private and public sector including the delivery of Degree Apprenticeships.
- Acts as an attractor for business and future investment
- Acts as a catalyst for healthy, thriving and prosperous communities through curriculum design and social mobility

The purpose of the University is to transform the region from what is a long standing HE cold-spot, into a region that actively promotes skills development alongside social mobility through offering all of our residents the opportunity to receive a high quality higher education experience. It must complement the digital and environmental ambitions of the region within its subject offer but must also have an ethos of "digital and technical excellence" and a focus on employability.

The formation of the Shadow Council

One of the first significant milestones for the University of Peterborough is the formation of a Shadow Council for the University.

Due to the existing joint venture with Anglia Ruskin University at UCP, the Shadow HE Council will act in an advisory planning capacity until August 2019, at which stage it is planned to transition into the UCP Council. The composition of this shadow board ensures that the University of Peterborough can demonstrate best practice to the Office for Students (OfS) through having implemented a robust recruitment and selection process and the successful appointment of the Chair, Professor Sir Les Ebdon.

The appointment of the chair is a significant step and the credibility of the chair in the HE sector is key in the delivery of a successful university. Professor Sir Les Ebdon has extensive experience in the university and higher education regulatory sector and has been involved in the establishment of universities in Plymouth and Bedfordshire. The other members of the board have either HE experience in health, computing and business or professional experience in financial, legal, education or business sectors. In addition, the Combined Authority and Local Authority are members of the Council. On-going transparency and accountability is critical and this will be achieved by all papers and minutes being available on the UCP website. The current

UCP Council has adopted the governance principles and practices of the higher education sector and as such follows the code endorsed by the Committee of University Chairs (CUC).

The next step is a formation of a new Employer and Community Consultative Group which will also ensure the needs of business and employers are addressed. The Shadow HE Council has already committed to ensuring that UCP and the subsequent University of Peterborough will focus on developing 'career ready' graduates who are able to apply their knowledge and skills to work.

This proposed structure for our university has been endorsed by Jean Arnold (HE Gateways-OfS) during a meeting on 13th June 2018. The structure was also presented to Nicola Dandridge, Chief Executive of OfS on 20th June 2018 when she visited UCP and met with all key stakeholders.

4.4 **Degree Awarding Powers**

In order for Peterborough to be an independent university it needs to be able to award its own degrees. This will mean Peterborough Degrees, delivered in Peterborough and written locally and aligned to business needs. This is known as having Degree Awarding Powers (DAP). DAP are awarded following a successful application to the Office for Students and Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

March 2019 is when UCP's application for new degree awarding powers to achieve probationary powers has/is submitted to the newly formed Office for Students (OfS). This was undertaken, without delays to the project, with a timeframe for the award to be determined by the OfS and Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

In the past 6 months, all of the current provision at University Centre Peterborough offered in partnership with Anglia Ruskin University has been successfully revalidated for September 2019, meaning that the courses will continue to run whilst DAP is sought and showing strong performance to the OfS. With all this in place, University Centre Peterborough are confident that these positive steps will ensure a successful degree awarding powers application with the OfS.

Progress towards DAP to date include:

- Comprehensive review of UCP Staff Qualifications & Experience (3 Annual Surveys) to demonstrate:
 - Highest Qualifications & Professional Memberships/Associations
 - Experience in curriculum development and approval which has increased significantly over the past 2 years
 - Fellowship with the Higher Education Academy
 - Experience in Research & Scholarly Activity
 - Appropriateness of Student: Staff ratio by course
- Development of UCP Academic Regulations / Frameworks
- Development of Draft DAP Application
- Funding of small-scale research/scholarship projects by UCP staff.
- Engagement with UCAS to define student demand for courses and inform Curriculum Strategy
- Engagement with external QAA consultants/advisors to assess readiness for DAP and review of submission documents.
- Working with Student Representatives to develop necessary Student Submissions for QAA Reviews
- Training / raising awareness of staff in relation to NDAP requirements and criteria.

The next steps toward DAP are:

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| ● Internal Scrutiny through HE Committees: | March 2019 |
| ● External Scrutiny by QAA Advisor: | March 2019 |
| ● Submit Application for New DAP to OfS: | March 2019 |
| ● Staff Training in Preparation for Implementation of 3 Year Plan | April-July 2019 |
| ● Discussion to agree 3 Year Plan with QAA: | May 2019 |
| ● Expected Outcomes & Recommendation from QAA: | September 2019 |
| ● Anticipated Authorization from OfS for New DAP's | October 2019 |

4.5

Curriculum

The vision for the University of Peterborough is to have a technical university that is attractive to both potential students, businesses and communities alike. The current and future curriculum of the University, which will include such subjects as engineering, business, education, agri-tech and computing is key to growing the current numbers to the levels required for an independent University of Peterborough (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review 2018 p111).

Key points to note in the ongoing development of the above mentioned curriculum are that:

- The curriculum outlined below in table 1.1 has recently been re-validated through Anglia Ruskin University.
- The Hatch Regeneris, *Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Skills Strategy Evidence Based Report (2018)* is being used to further identify skills shortages and priority areas for development.
- New Degree Awarding Powers will provide opportunity over the next 3 years to develop curriculum across Science and Technology, Health and Social Care and Teaching and will allow us to respond to the education, skills and training needs of the region.
- The Computing degree, which was re-validated in 2017, will be the first course to go through the Degree Awarding process to allow us to offer additional pathways in digital security, artificial intelligence and games development.
- Curriculum efficiency and flexibility is central to the newly developed curriculum and as such will provide further opportunities to study part-time in a 4 year mode (previously 6) with certain courses delivered in accelerated (2 year degrees) and blended modes (distance learning and face-to-face).
- Many of the professional courses will also have industry recognized accreditation to enable chartered status for graduates.

Table 1.1 – ARU revalidated curriculum

Faculty	Courses 2019/20	Potential for Degree Apprenticeships in 2020/21
Science and Technology	BSc (Hons) Computing and Information Systems	Y
	BEng (Hons) Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering	Y
	BEng (Hons) Electrical & Electronics Control Systems Engineering	Y
	FdA Digital Arts	
	BSc (Hons) Construction	Y
	FdSc & BSc (Hons) Forensic Investigation	
	BSc (Hons) Sports Psychology and Coaching Sciences	
	BSc (Hons) Biological Sciences	Y

	<i>Provision to move to UCP in 2020/21</i>	
	HNC Electrical and Electronic Engineering (Pearson Edexcel)	Y
	HNC Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering (Pearson Edexcel)	Y
	HNC/D Civil Engineering (Pearson Edexcel)	Y
	HNC Construction Management (Pearson Edexcel)	Y
Business and Professional Services	FdSc & BSc (Hons) Business Management - with Human Resources Management - with Marketing - with Responsible Business - with Supply-chain & Logistics	Y
	FdA & BA (Hons) Digital Marketing and Communications	
	BSc (Hons) Accounting & Finance	
Education and Teaching	BA (Hons) Education Studies (top-up)	
	FdA Early Years and Education	Y
Creative Industries	BA (Hons) Journalism	
	BA (Hons) Media Production	
	BA (Hons) Performing Arts	
	BA (Hons) English Literature	
	BA (Hons) English with Creative Writing	
Social Sciences	BA (Hons) Criminology	
	BA (Hons) Sociology	
	BA (Hons) Psychosocial Studies	
	BA (Hons) History and Archaeology	Y

4.6

University site

The Council has identified a site for the University to be built on land to the south of Bishops Road towards the Embankment. The first phase of building work will take place on around 11 acres of land between the Werrina Car Park and the Athletics Track. It is proposed that the Council will make the land available as its contribution towards a joint venture vehicle including the Combined Authority and the University to enable the first buildings to be constructed. The land will be valued at the outset. Once the University is well established the Council will receive a return on the land either in the form of dividend income distributed from the joint venture or through a sale of the land to the University.

A draft Memorandum of Understanding has been drawn up and agreed with the Combined Authority in relation to the proposed arrangements for the land to be made available. Detailed proposals concerning the governance of the joint venture and the role of each contributing party will be drawn up once the current Gateway review of the proposed delivery arrangements has been completed by Gleeds who have been commissioned by the Combined Authority to carry out this review so that the outline business case for the project can be finalised.

The Council has already undertaken a comprehensive title search on the land to be made available for the proposed University. This has identified a small number of covenants and other title restrictions but none of these are likely to cause any significant difficulties for the first phase of the Campus. As the Campus expands, decisions will need to be made about how best to integrate or relocate sports facilities such as the Athletics track and Regional Pool. However, final decisions on these facilities will not need to be made for several years.

4.7 **Moving Forward**

Significant progress has been made in the delivery of a University of Peterborough in terms of regulatory compliance which is part of a pathway that needs to be followed in order to ensure Peterborough has its own University.

There is confidence that all partners are now on a shared vision with the detail now being discussed, with some of the key priorities now identified.

The following are some of the key priorities for the University of Peterborough Project:

1. Maintain effective partnerships and progression opportunities with local schools and colleges
2. Establish effective partnerships with industry leaders such as The Welding Institute
3. Respond to employer demand
4. Develop a curriculum portfolio that is delivered in a variety of modes
5. Deliver taught Masters provision from 2020/21
6. Increase student numbers
7. Demonstrate teaching excellence and lay the foundations for research excellence and engage in knowledge transfer opportunities
8. Inform campus development and time frames – interim requirements for 2022 and single site by 2024. As soon as work begins on the embankment site this will be a significant catalyst for the project and public perception.
9. Achieve full degree awarding powers by 2023 (* subject to QAA / OfS timeframes)
10. Achieve university title 2026/2027
11. Achieve Research Awarding Powers (PhDs) by 2030

NB. The dates shown above are the earliest dates these steps can be achieved

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The University Steering group, which consisted of key partners and a wider stakeholder group including community, school, business and student representative, has over the past two years sought views, discussed and consulted on plans for the University of Peterborough.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 6.1 The anticipated outcome for consideration of this report is to provide greater information and assurance to members on progress for a University of Peterborough.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 The report does not provide recommendations but is to provide information and assurance.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 Not applicable.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 9.1 The report is to provide information and assurance on the progress of the University of Peterborough and therefore the report itself does not have any financial implication. It is noted however, that property and finance are fully engaged with the overarching project.

Legal Implications

9.2 Not applicable.

Equalities Implications

9.3 The report is to provide information and assurance on the progress of the University of Peterborough, however recognition is given to the fact that the University will play a key role in widening participation and access to Higher Education to the residents of Greater Peterborough and Fenland.

Rural Implications

9.4 The University of Peterborough will make access to Higher Education more accessible. Access to the university for the wider community will form part of the overarching project.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1 None

11. APPENDICES

11.1 None