




University of  
**Southampton**

# Welcome

Welcome and thank you for taking the time to view this exhibition on the University's plans for its estate.



The University is bringing forward a programme of investment across its campuses to create the optimum environment for students to be educated, world-class research to take place, and to enable collaboration and innovation with businesses and other stakeholders.

The ambitious plans will help to support the University's goal to become carbon neutral by 2030 by enabling refurbishment of some of the older buildings on the estate, removing some of the oldest buildings which have reached the end of their life and designing environmentally sustainable new buildings.

As part of its civic responsibility the University is committed to working closely with Southampton and Winchester city councils to contribute to and align with their latest Local Plans.

## The University has already made progress in starting to transform its estate



The **demolition of South Stoneham Tower** has recently been completed.

The **purchase of the Sir James Matthews building** in Guildhall Square is complete, refurbishment works are underway.

Bring the former **Lloyds Register building** at Boldrewood Campus into use for the University.

The **£40m plans** to extend the current sports provision on the Highfield campus and improve and refurbish its sports pitches and other facilities is underway.

The development of a **new surface car park** on land South of the current Broadlands car park has begun.



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## This exhibition will:

**Update** you on changes to the 2018 Estates plan

**Set out** the current challenges and future opportunities for the university's estate

**Introduce** some initial projects, including:

- ▶ The demolition of Faraday Tower and plans for Engineering Square
- ▶ Development proposals at North East Quadrant
- ▶ Ongoing backlog maintenance of the University's estate

## About the University

The University of Southampton has a deep and historic relationship with the city of Southampton, dating back to 1862 when it opened as the Hartley Institution in the High Street, below the Bargate.

Following a move to Highfield in 1919, the University is now based across seven campuses and we now look to renew our estate.

The University's work has tackled some of society's greatest challenges and key successes include:



- **Developing vaccines and equipment** for our frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Alongside supporting multiple studies that helped to determine the safety and effectiveness of vaccines for use in adults and children across the world, the University also developed the PeRSO device, a personal respirator designed to protect healthcare professionals treating people with COVID-19.
- **Building the UK's first dedicated Centre for Cancer Immunology**, to pioneer new treatments to help cure cancer.
- The Auditory Implant Service (USAIS), based on Highfield Campus, has had a significant positive impact through its work to **help over 2,000 severe and profoundly deaf adults and children** to hear with cochlear implants.
- The Optoelectronics Research Centre has contributed significantly to the **remarkable growth of the global photonics industry** and has led the development of technology that underpins the internet, as well as many innovations in medicine, security and manufacturing.
- **The RJ Mitchell wind tunnel** has been used by external companies including many Formula 1 racing teams and Olympic cyclists including Sir Chris Hoy and Amy Williams to improve aerodynamic performance.

## Arts & Culture

Over the years the University has welcomed members of the community to campus to enjoy many of its facilities including the Turner Sims Concert Hall and the now city-based John Hansard Art Gallery. Located in Studio 144 within Guildhall Square the new complex provides a vibrant visitor attraction at the heart of Southampton's thriving Cultural Quarter of museums, galleries, theatres and music venues.

Side-by-side at Studio 144, John Hansard Gallery and City Eye present internationally acclaimed art exhibitions, outstanding resources for film-makers and creative events for all ages, each venue contributing to the range of arts and culture in the city.



## Outreach & Civic

As part of its civic responsibility the University is committed to working closely with the community of Southampton and Winchester. Alongside partnerships with Winchester, Southampton and other local councils, the University also works closely with schools in the area, through the Ignite Southampton programme. Born out of 10 years of excellent outcomes through our Access to Southampton (A2S) programme, Ignite your Journey, our strand for Year 12/13 students, is designed to support students with their university applications, help develop their skills and support their transition to higher education.

Each year the University opens up its campus to run the award-winning Southampton Science and Engineering Festival, with academics giving demonstrations of their world-leading research helping the city's young people to explore and discover what the world of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) has to offer.



## Sports and Wellbeing

Members of the community, including local schools, regularly use the sports facilities at the Jubilee Sports Centre and will benefit from the current plans to invest £40m in extending the sports centre and refurbishing its sports pitches and other facilities.

## Bus Service

Most residents of Southampton will know that the University operates its own bus service, Unilink, which local people across the city use on a regular basis.

## Hartley Library

As well as being the focus for the academic life of many students, the Hartley Library houses many special collections including those of local interest, helping to preserve local history for future generations.

## Charity/Volunteering

Every year the University's students and staff volunteer hundreds of hours in the local community. This ranges from mentoring and tutoring in local schools to after school clubs and litter picks. The Students' Union's Raise and Give (RAG) raises up to £100,000 a year for good causes - one of the 3 charities is always local.



## Sustainability

To support its goal of becoming Carbon neutral by 2030, the University has developed a sustainability strategic plan that looks not only at improvements to the estate, but also at biodiversity, travel, carbon and energy, sustainable investments, waste and recycling, sustainable purchasing and food & drink.

We have developed a governance structure that ensures we hold ourselves accountable to deliver on our strategic sustainability vision and supports implementation in different areas of the University.

## Growth & Decant space

The University's Estate has continually developed and grown and now encompasses seven campuses in the UK. As the University establishes its sustainability strategic plan, we will move towards carbon neutrality by 2030. This will require refurbishment of some older buildings and replacement of those which have reached the end of their useable life. Construction of new facilities to ensure the University maintains competitiveness within the Higher Education Sector, and to allow decant of those buildings which require large scale refurbishment is an essential part of this process.



## Stats update

- **Ranked 78th** in the world in the QS world University rankings 2023
- **13th in the UK** in the latest Complete University Guide
- **2nd largest employer** in Southampton (6,458 jobs), worth **£4.379 billion** a year to UK
- **24,140** students
- **Winner** of the prestigious Queen's Anniversary Prize in 2018 for world-leading expertise in photonics and fibre optic technology
- Working in partnership with over **300** businesses to share knowledge and innovation and create competitive advantage
- University Science Park home to **over 100** businesses
- Global community of over **265,000** Alumni
- The University of Southampton's knowledge exchange activities generated an estimated **£240.5 million** across the UK economy, of which **£151.9 million (63%)** was generated in the Southeast





## Why is an Estates Strategic Plan Needed?

The University of Southampton is a founding member of the Russell Group of twenty-four prestigious research-intensive universities. It is consistently ranked as one of the top 100 universities in the world and is in the top 13 in the UK. Each year it provides a world-class educational experience to approximately 24,000 students at its UK campuses. The latest Research Excellence Framework (2021), which is the national assessment of the quality and impact of research, shows that 92% of Southampton's output is of internationally excellent or world-leading quality.

However, the University cannot stand still within an increasingly competitive higher education sector if it is to continue to attract and retain staff and students. The Estates Strategic Plan is needed to guide future University development, providing research and teaching facilities to ensure the University's staff and students continue to excel.

Southampton City Council in their Local Plan safeguard the University's Campuses for the intensification of education uses and encourage the development of new high-quality education and other related facilities. Our Strategic Estates Plan reflects these ambitions.

The University's estate plays a significant role in creating the optimum environment for students to learn, world-class research to be undertaken and in enabling collaboration and innovation between the University, industry and other stakeholder groups. The quality and character of our buildings and campuses are central to how we attract the best future students, researchers, staff, faculty and external partners in

industry. Our estate is a key part of our identity, it is the University's 'front door' and needs to grow and develop to match Southampton's reputation and our growth plans.

The purpose of the Estates Strategic Plan 2022-27 is to identify strategic goals that the estate needs to address, to ensure it supports the University's Strategy and our growth. It sets out the key challenges, opportunities, and solutions. The next 5 years are a critical period in the estates' development. Our estate needs to be developed at pace to meet projected increase in student numbers, whilst ensuring we continue to deliver an enhanced student experience. Providing a sustainable, inclusive estate underpins every aspect of our Estates Strategic Plan.

### The Estates Strategic Plan is based on **5** key goals which identify an estate that:

- 1.** Enables delivery of Our Strategy and enables us to realise our size and shape ambitions
- 2.** Enables us to meet our Sustainability Strategy
- 3.** Is an inclusive environment, making a positive contribution to mental health, well-being, encouraging active movement and biodiversity
- 4.** Has been developed to optimise investment of the university's resources
- 5.** Provides spaces for our University community to come together



## Key Projects in Southampton

In Southampton the **Strategic Estates Plan** will focus on the renewal and development of the University's estate. The Strategic Estates Plan is a long-term plan and projects are continually being defined. However, emerging project sites at Southampton are identified below.

### The Highfield Campus Key Projects

Highfield Campus, including the North East Quadrant is safeguarded for the intensification of educational uses within Southampton City Council's adopted Local Development Plan.



#### North East Quadrant

This site represents one of the most underperforming areas on Campus, dominated by surface parking and is a key development site following the demolition of Building 45. It is the largest unconstrained development area remaining at Highfield Campus and is proposed to be the site of new specialist collaborative teaching and research space.

#### Engineering Square

This project will involve the redevelopment of the Faraday Building and improvements to the public realm in the surrounding area. This will enhance connections to the Heart of Campus proposals.

#### Heart of Campus

Highfield is spread across a large area with little to promote a sense of place. By enhancing the public realm, refurbishing key buildings such as the Hartley Library and Jubilee Sports Centre, a stronger sense of place can be achieved within the centre of campus.

#### Backlog Maintenance

Over the next 5-years the University will prioritise revitalising deteriorating assets to ensure that these are in a suitable working condition for the benefit of staff and students. The revitalisation of existing assets will assist the University in meeting our sustainability and carbon neutrality targets outlined within our Sustainability Strategy (2020). Additionally, to facilitate future growth we need to be able to utilise all of our existing building stock to ensure sufficient decant space for learning and research, whilst development is undertaken elsewhere on campus.



## Key Projects in Southampton

### Other University Of Southampton Sites Key Projects



#### Accommodation

There is an extensive programme of refurbishment across the University's residences to ensure they are suitable for student needs. Whilst the proposed refurbishment programme is still under development it is a key ongoing priority for the University and will require the provision of decant residential bedspaces during its progression. Consequently, the University are examining several partnership options across Southampton to ensure we maintain our residences commitments.

#### Sir James Matthews

The University of Southampton completed on their purchase of the site which will provide invaluable teaching and learning space, and an increased presence in the City Centre.

#### Medical Health Research Building (MHRB)

The MHRB will host a range of specialist facilities, be a hub for medical research and will be located on the Hospital site. This will be close to patient care and is accessible and welcoming to all. The new facility will aim to stimulate interaction between researchers and NHS staff delivering clinical care or managing healthcare processes. We will aim to increase opportunities for entrepreneurial activities through technology transfer, consultancy and wider enterprise activity to benefit the regional economy.

## North East Quadrant

The project will house vital teaching, learning and research spaces whilst enhancing the frontages on Burgess Road. High-quality public realm will complete the transformation.

Highfield Campus, including the North East Quadrant is safeguarded for the intensification of educational uses within Southampton City Council's adopted Local Development Plan.

This site represents one of the most underperforming areas on Campus, dominated by surface parking and is a key development site following the demolition of Building 45. It is the largest unconstrained development area remaining at Highfield Campus and is proposed to be the site of new collaborative teaching and research space.

The redevelopment of the site is proposed to be across two phases, with the development of two academic buildings. The first of these will be the development of a landmark building which will grow University floorspace enabling increased teaching and learning facilities. The building will comprise of student focussed teaching and learning space supported by a catering provision to enhance the student experience and academic offices facilitating decant from Southampton General Hospital.

The redevelopment of the North East Quadrant will aim to create a campus gateway and improve the arrival experience from the north. The intention is for semi-enclosed landscaping to provide a better connection between this area and the rest of Highfield Campus.



# Engineering Square and Heart of Campus

## Engineering Square

Many parts of the Campus are ill-defined or dominated by car parking and servicing. As a campus based University it is vital that the estate provides a consistent campus experience. The area around the Faraday Building performs particularly poorly in this respect.

This project will revitalise the Engineering Square by replacing the Faraday Building, which is no longer fit-for-purpose, with new flexible facilities as well as relocating car parking to provide new streets around the square. In addition to infrastructure upgrades, public realm enhancements will create a more welcoming campus.



## Heart of Campus

The principal idea behind this project is the reinstatement of the central University square as the ‘front door’ to the Highfield Campus. The proposal seeks to create a stronger connection between the library, staff club and Students’ Union.

The Heart of Campus project goes further in that it will increase the intensity of academic life around the core of the University by introducing new activities with new or refurbished buildings. This will include the Hartley Library and development of the Jubilee Sports Centre.



### The University’s intentions include:

- An increase in quality and offer of catering facilities
- Improved facilities to support student life
- Improved connectivity between all areas on Highfield Campus
- Enhance existing landscaping with native species

## Accommodation

A modern University needs at all times to offer suitably priced and attractive residential accommodation in a well maintained, safe and secure environment. The University of Southampton has invested heavily in recent years to meet this need.

Residences are of great importance to the University and we understand this is something that impacts not only our estate but our neighbours and the City of Southampton. We will work with stakeholders as we progress our Residences Plans.

Data analysis has shown that the University could grow to at least 27,500 students by 2031/32. As a result there is expected to be a requirement for a further 2,500 residences across the University's entire estate. There is currently limited capacity across the existing estate to accommodate growth in student numbers and it is recognised that investment in new buildings and in maintaining and modernising existing buildings has been minimal in recent years. There is now an urgency to put a strategic delivery plan in place to address historic under investment and deliver new spaces to accommodate any increase in student numbers. The University will be preparing a residential strategy in the coming months to identify options to address this. A priority will be the refurbishment and redevelopment of existing stock which not only provides growth and decant opportunities but improved student experience and increased benefits to the carbon performance of the University's Estate. We will work with purpose built student accommodation providers and partners as we develop our plans. The strategy will identify a clear timeline of intervention required, in partnership with the City Council, to meet any growth in student numbers.

### **The University is committed to providing:**

- An **accommodation guarantee** to all first-year undergraduates
- Provision of accommodation for **c. 15%** of post graduate students
- Provision of accommodation to **c. 5%** of returning students to provide support for wellbeing reasons



# Transport

The University is a major presence in the North of the City of Southampton. Across all of our campuses the University is conscious of the impact we have through our travel plan. Our ongoing approach to Transport seeks to balance the demands of our users against our commitments to sustainability, as outlined in our Sustainability Strategy.

There are currently **1,568 car parking spaces** available on Highfield Campus, spread amongst dedicated car parks and around buildings. The parking provision primarily caters for permit holding staff and disabled permit holders, however the provision also includes prebooked visitor car parks and Pay & Display.

The University are preparing an updated Travel Plan following travel surveys that took place in June 2022. Consideration is being given to the impact of changes in working patterns post COVID-19. A number of options are being considered including:

- Providing additional incentives for travelling via sustainable modes
- Consolidating on-site car parking
- Supporting flexible working patterns and remote working, including flexible travel options for times when people need to be on campuses
- Supporting micro-mobility options, including bike and e-scooter hire
- Exploring park and ride/ park and walk opportunities

## Public Transport

The University provides the Uni-link bus network to support travel via public transport between campuses, the city centre and Southampton General Hospital. Uni-link operates high frequency services and cross ticketing with Bluestar bus services in the city, both of which are used extensively by members of the public, staff and students. The U1 route connects to both Parkway and Central rail stations to support onward journeys.

The University supports bike hire and e-scooter hire schemes in Southampton, with a number of docking locations for both Beryl Bikes and Voi Scooters across campuses.

## Pedestrian and Cycling Networks

The University works closely with Southampton City Council on the promotion of walking and cycling in the city, and has supported the development of the Southampton Cycle Network. This has included recent traffic calming measures on Wessex Lane, cycle routes on the Avenue into the city centre and upcoming improvements to Glen Eyre Road and Lovers Walk (along the eastern edge of the Common).



## Summary and Next Steps

Thank you for coming to this exhibition which signals the beginning of an important and exciting stage for the University of Southampton.

This is the beginning of the process. The purpose of this exhibition is to set the scene, highlight early projects to you and to explain the reasons for change which underpin the Estates Strategic Plan, which includes consideration of the University's Sustainability, Residences and other Strategies. A lot of work is still to be done and the University will be sharing its project specific plans with you as they progress.

Over the next few months, the University will be reviewing your comments and taking them into consideration as we progress the key projects we have identified.

If you have any comments, please fill out a feedback form or send us an email at [estatedevelopment@soton.ac.uk](mailto:estatedevelopment@soton.ac.uk)

All the information displayed today can be found on our website: [www.southampton.ac.uk/exhibition](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/exhibition)





## Employment and Skills

As an organisation the University places a great emphasis on creating employment, skills and training opportunities through education and employability programmes for all. They are also involved in community development projects and work with social enterprises. The University employs 6,458 staff directly with additional in-direct employment provided through construction, development and via other sectors.

The University encourage the involvement of local people and businesses in all capital projects and engage with the community for all development proposals. Where appropriate, the University will commit to the provision of specific employment and training opportunities for local people as part of an Employment and Skills Plans required by Southampton City Council as part of the planning process.



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**6,458**  
staff directly

## 45% of University expenditure is focussed in the South East.

When analysed by postcode 45% of all University Procurement happens in the South East region. Recent analysis of the 2020/21 financial year showed that for every £1 million of operational capital expenditure incurred by the University, it generated an additional £1.71 million in wider economic impact. Of this, £0.71 million is focussed in the South East.

The University generates, attracts and retains a large number of high-quality jobs, which are heavily concentrated in the South East.

For further information on the methodology and analysis of the University's economic impact please go to  
[www.soton.ac.uk/impact](http://www.soton.ac.uk/impact)

