



Delivering Social Impact at the University of Northampton Waterside Campus 2015-2018.



Contents.

Introduction.	3
Delivering impact together.	4
Waterside social impact in numbers.	5
Providing jobs to local people.	6
Providing work placement and apprenticeship opportunities.	8
Making a positive difference to the environment.	10
Engaging with the community.	12
Looking forward.	14





Introduction.

The University of Northampton set out to deliver social impact in a new and exciting way.

The development of the Waterside Campus is the biggest investment that the University of Northampton has ever made, and therefore the University wanted to use this initiative to ensure that positive social impact (aka 'good stuff') would be delivered through the construction of the campus.

The University developed a Social Impact Action Plan which explained how we wanted to work with partners

to make a positive difference, described examples of current activities, and set out ten key strategic principles, as well as providing examples of how the University made a positive difference to people and the environment.

Working with contractors Bowmer and Kirkland, and Kier, we developed relevant and mutually agreed Key Performance Indicators that were used on the Waterside project to deliver and measure social impact.

This publication highlights and celebrates the 'good stuff' that has been achieved through the construction of the Waterside Campus.

Delivering impact together.



"The University of Northampton was determined from the outset that the new Waterside Campus resulted in lots of 'good stuff'.

I am grateful to partners Bowmer and Kirkland, and Kier, for working so well with the University to make a positive and lasting impact on the County during the building of the Waterside Campus.

We have been able to provide the County with new opportunities for employment, training and business, including apprenticeships.

I look forward to the opening of the new campus as the building project enters its final few months."

Professor Simon Denny, Executive Dean: Research, Impact and Enterprise, The University of Northampton

"The University of Northampton Waterside Campus Social Impact project was based on partnership and collaboration.

Working closely with the social impact teams from the University and contractor Bowmer and Kirkland, it has been a pleasure to deliver a successful project.

Going forward Kier are already utilising the good practice used on Waterside on new projects in other areas."

Guy Osborne, Construction Manager, Kier Construction



"It is always very rewarding to be able to positively impact the local surroundings and neighbourhood during a construction project.

During the University of Northampton Waterside Project, through collaboration with the University and the other construction partners, Bowmer and Kirkland has been able to deliver positive social impact to an exceptional level and the project will leave a lasting legacy on the local community.

I am committed to ensure that these good practices are taken forward into all my future projects."

Nick McQuaid, Contracts Manager, Bowmer and Kirkland



Waterside social impact in numbers.



1239

local people employed
on site through the
project supply chain



41

local
suppliers
engaged



72

new
entrants
to the
construction
sector



20

apprentices
employed



43

local people
up-skilled



9

student placements
delivered



48

public events held



3

awards won



Providing jobs to local people.

From the outset the University of Northampton was determined that the building of the new campus would give the County new opportunities for employment, training and business.

One of our key KPIs was creating employment for local people, to provide jobs and enhance future prospects.

Since construction began in 2015, 1239 local people have been employed on site through the project supply chain, and over 40 local businesses have been suppliers to the project.

Local people employed on site



"My job has been very interesting and rewarding. My two years have flown by, every day is a different challenge whilst also being rewarding. I have loved working here and as it is also quite close to home and it's something I can always remember as I drive past in the future when it is complete. I look forward to moving to a new site and using the experience I continue to gain."

Joanna McIntyre
Site Secretary



"I have worked on this project for 19 months. I work with a great team of people covering many different types of work, no two days are the same and the work always keeps us on our toes, I really enjoy working on this project and also giving my home town a brand new university that I can proudly state I worked on."

Aurelian Pamfile
General Site Operative



"I have worked at the Waterside Campus site for nearly two years, I really enjoy my work here, meeting all the new people and working as part of the team whilst helping to maintain the high standards within the office and welfare."

I find my work rewarding although some days are especially challenging during the winter months."

Sarah Seerattan
Cleaning Supervisor



"I have had the privilege of working a number of the different plots during my two years on site at Waterside. As a local resident it will be nice to see the campus in use. Working on this project has been a rewarding experience and one I will be able to admire for years to come."

Bob Jinks
Site Manager



"I have worked for Bowmer and Kirkland for nearly four years and I have been on this project for nearly two years now, since I started on this project I have achieved my Site Supervisor Safety Training Scheme qualification and my full first aid qualification and have taken my first steps in to construction management. I really enjoy the challenges this project throws at me and helping to give my home town a brand new university that we all can be proud of is a great achievement for me."

Gabriel Vieru
Project Foreman/Carpenter



"Working here has increased my knowledge of construction and broadened my skills range (which may lead to further work with Kier on future projects in Northampton). It's been fascinating seeing the project come together literally from the ground up, and great to have been involved in the social impact projects."

I am looking forward to seeing the campus properly come to life in September when the new student intake arrives."

Sarah Tudno-Jones
Site Secretary

Providing work placement and apprenticeship opportunities.

Not only did the University provide work placements and apprenticeship opportunities for its students, it also worked with local colleges to provide students with the opportunity to spend time working on the Waterside development site and transferring the skills they learn in the classroom into a real-world setting.



Volkan Aslan, a University of Northampton Architectural Technology graduate, did a five-week placement with Bowmer and Kirkland, and was then offered a position of a 'Trainee Design Manager'.

"It's been a wonderful opportunity for me. Being a member of this enthusiastic team has enabled me to translate my theoretical knowledge into practical experience. I've learnt so much that will be invaluable in my future career."

Lewis Jones from Quarrydale Academy in Sutton in Ashfield, and Donell Smith from Northampton College, both completed their work experience on the Waterside Project. Due to their hard work, they were then offered apprenticeships by Derry Building Services who are part of the Bowmer and Kirkland Group.

Lewis, although not from a local college, contacted Bowmer and Kirkland for work experience and was given the opportunity to work on the Waterside Project. Lewis was in his final year of GCSEs at the time of his work experience. He is about to complete the first year of his Electrical Apprenticeship with Derry Building Services, studying for his NVQ Level 3 in Electrical Installation.

Donell was studying Electrical Installation at Northampton College during the time of his work experience. Donell was then offered an apprenticeship with a Northampton based subcontractor to Derry Building Services on the back of his efforts on his work experience.

“Following my work experience with Derry Building Services on the Waterside Campus I was offered an apprenticeship. I have spent six months working on site and have gained valuable experience. I enjoy being an apprentice electrician. I chose to join this trade due to the good prospects that come along with it and the fact an electrician will always be needed.”

Lewis Jones

“Insight into a real working environment and the opportunity to enhance and develop new skills is what I found beneficial about my placement.”

Donell Smith



Making a positive difference to the environment.

Working with our contractors, we ensured that we make a positive impact on the environment as a result of the construction of the Waterside Campus.

For example, we used a pre-cast piling method to reduce waste on site; we worked with a social enterprise to reduce wood waste; wheel wash was used which reduced the quantity of water used on site; and improving the biodiversity of the site through initiatives such as the Grow Wild Initiative.



Grow Wild initiative.

The Grow Wild initiative is an educational and environmental scheme that involves growing native wildflowers and improving the biodiversity on a construction site.

Kier contractors worked with a local school to transform a temporary garden at the Waterside Campus site into a colourful space.

Pupils and teaching staff from Delapre Primary School in Northampton participated in the initiative and planted the area with vegetables, herbs and seeds. Some of the seeds and seedlings were taken back to the school by the pupils and teachers to plant in the school garden.

Food bank donations.

Kier worked with RE: Store Northampton which is a charity run by Central Vineyard Church that supports local people by providing food and necessities to those in need in the Northampton area.

Staff from Kier were being encouraged to make donations to the charity that includes food and non-food items such as washing powder and cleaning products. Since many of their staff go to the local supermarket for lunch, they were encouraged to stop and think about those who are going hungry, and to add a food bank item to their basket.

Recycling wood waste.

Bowmer and Kirkland worked with Community Wood Recycling to recycle the wood waste that is collected from the Waterside site.

Community Wood Recycling - the trading arm of a social enterprise called National Community Wood Recycling Project - collects wood waste in caged trucks and loads them by hand. This method enables them to eliminate the void space that accounts for up to 40% of a skip's volume, meaning fewer skips are needed over the course of a build. They are one of very few firms that reuse and recycle timber, rather than just sending it for chipping. This allows for an efficient and cost effective method of collecting all types of wood waste. By doing this the social enterprise aims to save resources by reusing and recycling waste, while creating jobs, training and volunteering opportunities for disadvantaged people.

Reducing waste on site.

Reduction of waste has been at the forefront of the Waterside Campus construction and different piling methods have been used in line with this.

Piling is the process which transfers the load of a building to the ground below. Using the pre-cast concrete piling method, which drives the piles in very small increments, has resulted in a reduction of 95 tonnes of waste going to landfill.



Stone and topsoil was donated by Waterside contractors for the new planters in Becketts Park in Northampton.



Engaging with the community.

We actively engaged with our community to deliver a positive impact through socially innovative activities and initiatives.

Working with local schools.

The University and Bowmer and Kirkland launched an art competition for local school children and young people to become more involved with the Waterside Campus.

The two partners encouraged local school children to create an image showing what living in Northampton means to them. The entries were then judged and the best artists were invited down to paint the final designs onto the hoardings which will be seen by thousands of people, visitors and residents.

The winners were 112 pupils from Delapre Primary School and 11 children belonging to the Bowmer and Kirkland site team and other sub-contractors.

The design created was the Waterside Express – a train with carriages depicting the highlights of Northampton. The outline of the design was drawn by local entrepreneur and artist, and University of Northampton graduate, Marvin Mudzongo of Lemonpop Workshops. He used the ideas from the children's artwork to create the design in the carriages.

The Waterside Express was one of 70 entries submitted to the national Considerate Constructors Scheme for the Ivor Goodsite Hoarding Competition and was declared one of the winners.





Photo: Bowmer and Kirkland Contract Manager, Nick McQuaid (left) and Andrew Jolley, Northampton Sea Cadets chairman, with cadets Frankie Gallop, Ethan Hayes, Jade Taylor and Kallem Lovell.

Waterside Campus constructors come to the rescue of Sea Cadets cut adrift by health and safety fears.

Contractor Bowmer and Kirkland came to the rescue of the town's Sea Cadets, after a series of companies refused to install a badly needed front door at their headquarters.

Northampton Sea Cadets' Lieutenant, Chris Read, was becoming exasperated after receiving knock-backs from three door-fitting firms who were put off by the building's location – on an island in the middle of the River Nene.

"All refused to even quote for the work due to access and health and safety concerns," said Lt Read.

"Problems with getting to the site means we have difficulties having large materials delivered. Or if a company says it can deliver, the price rises significantly so it's out of our reach – we are a charity and rely on local support for funds. The headquarters' door was fitted 35 years ago, was rusted and uninsulated, while a storm had damaged it, meaning it was patched up and not particularly secure."

Given the building's close proximity to the University's new Waterside Campus, Lt Read contacted the institution in the hope of finding a solution. The University of Northampton put the town's Sea Cadets with Bowmer and Kirkland, who supplied and fitted the door free of charge.

Nick McQuaid, Bowmer and Kirkland Contracts Manager, said: "When we heard about the trouble the cadets were having trying to get a new door delivered and fitted, we were only too happy to help. Access to the island can be tricky, but our team were determined not to let the cadets down."

Lt Read said: "We are very grateful to Bowmer and Kirkland and the University for their help. The door improves the look of the building, making it a more secure and welcoming environment. Being based just a matter of yards from the new campus has been a point of excitement for all of us involved with the cadets, and we are looking forward to continuing our excellent relationship with the University."

Looking forward.



We are delighted with the work that the University of Northampton and partners Bowmer and Kirkland and Kier have done to deliver the maximum social impact in the local community through the construction of the new Waterside Campus.

As a result of this work, the University of Northampton has produced a 'How to do good stuff when buying things' handbook¹ which provides a guide to procurement managers of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) on how they can include social impact clauses into their procurement processes when considering major purchasing decisions, including construction projects.

If you would like further guidance about how you can successfully embed social impact into your procurement processes, then please contact the University's Social Impact team on the following email addresses:

Richard Ellis, Waterside Social Impact Co-ordinator
Email: reenterprise@btinternet.com

Kulwinder Kaur, Communications and Projects Officer
Email: Kulwinder.Kaur@northampton.ac.uk

¹https://www.northampton.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/1377_HEI-Procurement-Handbook_updated_web.pdf



socialimpact@northampton.ac.uk



Designed and produced by the Research,
Impact and Enterprise directorate