

## **Vice Chancellors' community meeting**

**Q: What are the current numbers of students studying at our University and do we plan to grow these numbers in the next 5-10 years?**

**a) undergraduates and (b) postgraduate, with further breakdown into UK/EU and international students**

**A: University of Bristol**

Up to date student numbers are on our website <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/university/facts/>. Our new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brady, is running a University-wide consultation on our future strategy including engaging with external stakeholders. As part of this we are looking at the size and shape of the University and a range of opportunities to grow and diversify the student population, including exploring whether we want to establish an additional campus to support such growth. Our future plans are not finalised at this stage. But we recognise that capacity to grow on our current site is limited and we must consider housing requirements as part of this process.

**A: University of the West of England**

We are currently in discussions with our Board of Governors about the future size and shape of the University, as we undertake a mid-point review of our progress in relation to the University's Strategy 2020. A number of scenarios are being considered, which are of course subject to developments in the global and national higher education market and the external policy and regulatory environment that we are operating in. Currently the University has approximately 27,000 students. This breaks down as approximately 21,500 undergraduate students and 5,500 postgraduate. Of this population, approximately 1,000 are from the EU and nearly 3,000 are from outside the EU. These numbers are all available on our [website](#).

**Q: In the interest of sustainable communities, has the time come for a cap to be placed in Bristol on further student numbers?**

**A:** The financial realities of Higher Education in the UK are such that universities almost certainly need to grow to remain viable but we recognise the need to grow in responsible ways.

It is important to note the key role that universities play in the economy, both regionally and nationally – through addressing skills shortages, supporting innovation, attracting talent to the region and being major employers. In 2011-12, universities across the sector contributed £36.4 billion to UK GDP.

**Q: How do we plan accommodation for our students, and what are our plans for providing accommodation for an increased number of students? Would we consider commissioning more purpose built accommodation in other areas of the city?**

**A: University of Bristol**

All first year students are offered a place in university-owned halls of residence or in halls leased from the private sector. We also aim to house a proportion of returning students in these halls. We regularly communicate with the major private sector accommodation

providers in the city and enter into agreements with them as necessary. Many of these purpose built student accommodation blocks are in the city centre.

We are not planning to build or commission accommodation to house second, third and fourth year or postgraduate students as there is an increasing supply of direct-let private providers in Bristol, especially in the city centre, offering rooms from September 2016. We also recognise the value of choice of accommodation for students and that learning to live independently in mixed communities can be an important part of a university education.

**A: University of the West of England**

UWE Bristol is already able to offer a guaranteed place in University accommodation for all first year students, including those joining through clearing. We also continue to invest considerably in student accommodation on our Frenchay Campus and will have 1,000 new beds by September. We anticipate that we will continue to build more accommodation in the future for first years and also returning second and third year students. It is worth noting that 50% of our students come from the region.

**Q: What accommodation options do we promote to our students, does this include encouraging them to consider Unite/other purpose built student accommodation?**

**A: University of Bristol**

Yes, we promote a broad range of options, including purpose built accommodation. As noted, we offer a place in University-owned or leased accommodation to all first year students.

**A: University of the West of England**

As above, UWE Bristol offers a place in University accommodation to all first year students and we are investing in additional student accommodation on our Frenchay Campus. There are a range of options available for students. These are outlined on our website under [accommodation options](#).

**Q: Where do our students live?**

**A: University of Bristol**

Our first year students primarily live in University-owned or leased accommodation. For all other students, we record their addresses for communication purposes, but do not collect or record their accommodation by type or area.

**A: University of the West of England**

Over 5,000 of our students reside in university and private sector halls. There are also over 3,500 students who live at home. Similarly to UoB, whilst we record the addresses of students we are unable to report accurately on the number of students in private sector rental accommodation.

**Q: Recognising that the student population is a major factor in the acute housing shortage in Bristol, will the universities give preference to applicants whose home address is in Bristol, or within daily travel distance?**

**A: University of Bristol**

We admit students on the basis of academic merit but we also make considerable efforts to promote the University in local schools as part of our efforts to diversify our student population. We have an Access to Bristol scheme that attracts significant numbers of local candidates although numbers of local applications overall are relatively low. We also actively target mature students.

**A: University of the West of England**

Students are awarded a place based on academic merit. The University works closely with a number of local schools to encourage progression and 50% of our students already come from within the region.

**Q: What does the University do to encourage students to be aware of the community they live in and to be good neighbours?**

**A: University of Bristol**

The University does all that it can to promote the positive aspects of student life and foster good relationships between students and the local community. In addition to the joint initiatives with UWE outlined below, we also work pro-actively throughout the year to make sure students are aware of their responsibilities. All students moving into privately rented accommodation for the first time are sent information that includes our [guide to living in the community](#), alongside a letter from the Vice Chancellor, which sets out our expected standards of behaviour. We also have a [Good Neighbour Policy \(PDF, 188KB\)](#) as well as [local rules \(PDF, 202KB\)](#) for students living in the community.

**A: University of the West of England**

UWE is committed to responding to concerns in the community over student behaviour and aims to encourage high standards of conduct. In addition to the initiatives outlined below UWE produces a guide for returning students on community living which provides essential information for students on how to be a good neighbour, such as - becoming part of the local community, taking pride in where you live, rubbish, parking and noise. My Handy Student Living Guide, [Keeping the Peace](#), Top Tips for being a good neighbour, Vice-Chancellor's Letter and Love where you Live materials are hand delivered to students in private rented accommodation each year as well as given out at the Accommodation Fair each year.

Together with the University of Bristol Community Liaison Officer, we also door knock roughly 2,000 households across Bristol with advice about being a good neighbour every year, information on this also goes out via Letting Agents across Bristol and is put into new student tenants induction packs.

The UWE Charter sets out the principles on which our learning community at UWE Bristol is founded and the shared expectations and commitments that foster a positive experience for all students, including that students act as a responsible member of our University community both on and off campus. We also have a student conduct policy and disciplinary procedure, details of which can be found on our website here:

<http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/students/academicadvice/studentconductpolicy.aspx>

**A: Universities of Bristol and the West of England**

Both universities are also involved in a number of partnerships across the city:

**Love Where You Live:** Our House, Our Street, Our Community is a partnership project designed to help welcome new residents to the wonderful city of Bristol. The [website](#) is full of useful links and tips to help people settle into Bristol. The partnership informs students of their rights and responsibilities as tenants when living in private accommodation, covering key facts on waste management, safety and antisocial behaviour.

**The Bristol Big Give** is an annual student move-out collection and recycling campaign run by both universities, which donates unwanted goods to charity. Collaborating with Bristol City Council, 88 tonnes of donated items from students were collected, with a value of £180,000, during summer 2014 raising vital funds for over a dozen local and national charities including British Heart Foundation.

**The Bristol Student Community Partnership (BSCP)** has been established to increase community confidence, by bringing together partners and providing a co-ordinated approach to promoting student/community relations and cohesion, in the context of the positive contribution of both universities in Bristol. The group coordinates partnership activities to promote stronger student/community relations and responds to issues that require a multi-agency response.

**Student volunteering:** 100,000 hours of volunteering are completed by students each academic year involving 7,500 students. This is based on an average calculation of those we know to be volunteering. The actual figure is probably much higher. 2099 students got involved in Bristol Green Capital.

**Community Fund:** Both UWE and UoB have Community Funds which offer grants of up to £250 towards community initiatives. From community curry nights to neighbourhood clean-ups and street parties, the aim of the fund is to make the student population feel part of the community [www.uwe.ac.uk/communityliaison](http://www.uwe.ac.uk/communityliaison)  
<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/accommodation/community/>

**Community Ambassadors:** Both UWE and UoB have groups of students who are out and about in residential areas helping students to settle in to the area, providing advice and information on things such as recycling, property maintenance and getting involved with the local community by directing them to [local residents groups and forums](#). Community Ambassadors will also chat with residents about things that matter to them, and in some cases help communities take action.

**Night in or night out:** We encourage students to hold parties away from their homes where possible and we produce a guide to external venues which is updated by our team of community ambassadors each year.

**Q: Do the universities take responsibility for the actions of their students, and of landlords providing student accommodation?**

**A:** Both Universities make considerable efforts to encourage their students to make a positive contribution, and minimise any negative impacts, of living in the city. We work closely with Students' Unions, local councillors, council staff, police etc. with the support of the Bristol Student Community Partnership to do this.

It's important to note that the University has no legal powers to address some of the issues that concern local residents. Students are independent adults with the same rights and responsibilities as other citizens. We take concerns and complaints seriously and attempt to pre-empt issues as far as we can and take disciplinary action where we believe it is warranted by student behaviour.

**Q:** **How do the universities, as profit making business and fiscally privileged charities, see their corporate responsibilities with regard to the impact of their students on the communities in which they live?**

**A:** Universities are not profit making organisations. All of our income is reinvested in our primary charitable purposes of education and research. However, we do aim to act responsibly in terms of our institutional impact, whether that is in terms of operating sustainably and ethically in our research and education, or in managing our responsibilities to our students and the local community. We are both major employers in the city and value the significant contribution that we make to the economy of Bristol and the south west.

**Q:** **How does the University respond to complaints about students who are making too much noise, or who are not clearing their rubbish?**

**A:** Although we hope that local residents will attempt to resolve any issues directly with the students concerned, if complaints are made we have a range of penalties from a verbal warning to, in very extreme cases, requiring a student to withdraw from the University. There is further information about the University of Bristol complaints procedure here: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/accommodation/community/complaints.html> and the UWE complaints procedure here: <http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/aboutus/contactuwe/complaints.aspx>.

The University does not have legal enforcement powers and the following organisations may be contacted in relation to specific concerns:

- City Council Noise Officers have powers to deal with noise complaints. Complaints about noise nuisance should be made to:  
Bristol City Council Pollution Control  
Telephone: +44 (0)117 922 2500  
Email: [pollutioncontrol@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:pollutioncontrol@bristol.gov.uk)  
Opening hours: 8.30am - 5pm, Monday to Thursday, 8.30am - 4.30pm Friday  
Out of hours, telephone: +44 (0)117 922 2050 Sunday, Monday and Tuesday until midnight; Wednesday and Thursday until 1 am; Friday and Saturday until 3.30am.
- Complaints about criminal and anti-social behaviour, vandalism, harassment etc. should be always be made to the Police on telephone 101 or 999 for emergencies.

- To report missed collections, bins left on pavements throughout the week, misuse of Bristol's recycling service, fly-tipping etc., please visit [Bristol City Council's bins and recycling pages](#).

**Q: Will we support residents in controlling late-night licensed premises?**

**A:** Whilst the universities do not have legal enforcement powers we are happy to support residents in making complaints about licensees who are acting irresponsibly.

**Q: Would we consider allowing local residents groups to talk to first year students at Clifton Halls of Residence as part of their induction programme?**

**A: University of Bristol**

Our induction and welcome programme is tightly packed with events throughout the week, and it would be difficult for us to invite local residents to participate in these. We would not want to offer something to Clifton that we can't offer across all our other Residences. However, our mandatory induction programme for students in residences includes guidance on noise disturbances and respecting our neighbours, and our Head of Student Residential Life is happy to include messages from Residents within the talks if people wish to send this to [conduct-accom@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:conduct-accom@bristol.ac.uk) (previously we have included maps of preferred walking routes home from clubs, which is incredibly useful).

The initial induction messages are supplemented by campaigns throughout the academic year from our community and Students' Union teams, in addition to 'welcome back' messages after the Christmas break. We remind students of these issues in their second and third years. All students moving into privately rented accommodation for the first time are sent information about living in the community, including our guide to living in the community.

**Q: Are the universities' security teams prepared to provide a hotline and respond to residents who are having problems with unruly or anti-social behaviour, parties etc in student HMOs?**

**A:** We have no legal enforcement powers regarding noise, our security services have no jurisdiction outside our own premises. Such issues should either be reported to the Council noise abatement teams (details above) or to the police.

**Q: What plans does the University of Bristol have to develop the precinct, and would we consider areas such as Highbury Place and their improvement scheme in our plans?**

**A: University of Bristol**

We are pleased that Highbury Place Residents Group are taking an interest in improving pedestrian safety and amenities through the Highbury Place scheme. We are currently running a University wide consultation on our future strategy, and as part of this we are looking at a range of ideas on how we can improve the precinct.

Current improvement projects include refurbishment and extension of the grade 2 listed Fry building, located on Woodland Road and University Road for the School of Mathematics by

August 2017; a new wing on the Queen's Building on Woodland Road in order to provide additional teaching and research space for the Engineering Faculty (a detailed traffic management plan for Woodland Rd has been agreed with Bristol City Council for the duration of these works); refurbishment of the Grade 2 listed former Children's Hospital, providing space for the University's Centre for Nuclear Research by May 2016.

An emerging theme in our strategic planning process is a desire to improve our public space, particularly on Tyndall Avenue, on Woodland Road and around the Hawthorns, building on the work that we have recently done in Royal Fort Gardens.

**Q: What is the University of Bristol doing to make the former Habitat building, now known as Beacon House more attractive?**

**A: University of Bristol**

Beacon House will create a new public reception point for the University. It will house a café, which will be open to the public as well as students, and provide a large new study space for the student community. It will open on 11 April and we hope to invite local residents, amongst others, to a formal launch later in the year.

We are also working with Bristol City Council on the feasibility of re-adopting the Beacon House frontage, currently owned by BCC, and making improvements to the forecourt.

**Q: Will the universities commit to working with Bristol City Council and communities to develop a strategic neighbourhood plan, as Loughborough, Nottingham and Sheffield have done?**

**A:** This has not been raised with us before and we would be happy to consider in liaison with Bristol City Council.

**Q: What will the University of Bristol do about extra traffic at the start of term and Open Days, particularly around the pedestrian crossing near the Victoria Rooms?**

**A: University of Bristol**

We have traffic management plans in place for Arrivals Days and Open Days. On Open Days. We also run park and ride systems to help minimise traffic and we also time them to avoid other big events in the city.