



Business Board		Agenda Item  3.3
13th November 2023		
Title:	University of Peterborough Update	
Report of:	Jim Cunningham, Assistant Director Delivery	
Lead Member:	Al Kingsley, Chair of the Business Board	
Public Report:	Yes	
Key Decision:	No	
Voting Arrangements:	No vote required	

#### Recommendations:

A	Members of the Business Board are recommended to note the contents of the report and comment on how the work of the Business Board can be further aligned to supporting the University's and partners ambitions to maximise the economic impact of ARU Peterborough
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#### Strategic Objective(s):

The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):

	Achieving ambitious skills and employment opportunities
	Achieving good growth
	Enabling resilient communities

#### 1. Purpose

1.1	The purpose of this paper is to provide members of the Business Board with an update on progress with the development and delivery of Anglia Ruskin University Peterborough
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#### 2. Background

2.1	<p>The University of Peterborough project involves a partnership arrangement between Anglia Ruskin University (ARU), CPCA and Peterborough City Council.</p> <p>The project has been designed, developed and is being delivered to address three key issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Peterborough had been identified nationally as a higher education coldspot and economic growth was being inhibited by a lack of educational opportunity locally for the City's young people</li><li>• Negative impact on business growth in Peterborough through a lack of suitably skilled talent.</li><li>• The opportunity for Peterborough to attract new investment particularly in research development and innovation through being a University City</li></ul>
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2.2	The project has been developed in three key phases
2.3	<b>Phase 1 University House</b> – the first teaching building was handed over to ARU Peterborough in the Summer of 2022 and was completed on time and within budget. The University welcomed its first students with teaching starting in September 2022. This facility was created at a cost of £30.47m with contributions from CPCA £12.3m, Local Growth Fund £12.7m, PCC £1.87m (land in kind)
2.4	<b>Phase 2 Innovation and Research Centre</b> – The intention is to achieve significant sector-cluster growth, improve services and increase the number of jobs, to help reset Peterborough's potential rate of economic recovery. The building will seek to strengthen links between academia and industry, establish skills and learning in the very heart of the city, and provide a platform for an innovation eco-system with a university at its core. The building shell was completed in Spring 2023. This phase of the project is being financed through a contribution of £13.78m from the CA Business Board; a loan facility of £2m from the Combined Authority and a grant of £3m from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). The Centre comprises approximately 18,000ft on three floors. The University is investing £1.9m of funding obtained from the Office for Students to create an Extended Reality suite on the Ground Floor which will provide an as real-life practical learning experience for students. The remaining floors are being marketed to innovation and research-based organisations and companies with the aim being to attract a single user for the first floor and multi occupancy for the top floor.
2.5	<b>Phase 3 Living Lab and further academic space.</b> This phase will feature mainly STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) based teaching activities. The Living Lab part of the building will enable the public to enjoy events and exhibits to inspire future generations in STEM, the net zero economy and careers of the future. The facility is on target to be completed by July 2024 at a total cost of £31.77m. This phase is being financed by a £20m grant from DLUHC; £2m in recycled Local Growth Funds from the CA Business Board; in kind land contribution from Peterborough City Council; £4m from ARU and additional funding of £1.9m each from the three local partners CPCA, PCC and ARU.
2.6	Further development of the Campus will focus on maximising the economic impact of the project through the attraction of major research and development facilities whose activities are aligned to ARUP and the local economy. To achieve this, the existing footprint of the University campus will need to be increased. This will involve the preparation and submission of an Outline Planning Application to Peterborough City Council which will set out proposed land uses. In support of this, a response has been submitted to PCC's Local Plan Review to ensure that the land required for the future expansion of the University continues to be protected. The attraction of major research and development facilities is likely to require further public sector investment and this need will be taken forward as part of CPCA's negotiations with Government with respect to a new devolution deal and in additional funding asks of Government.
2.7	ARU Peterborough is already achieving considerable success and making a major contribution to the economy of Peterborough and the wider area as set out in appendix A.
2.8	The University has had an outstanding impact in its first operational year and its progress remains aligned to the original business plan.  The development of the campus continues at pace and in line with objectives. Phase 2 building is now complete with the University preparing to take occupancy of the Ground floor and the remaining two floors being marketed to innovation and research led organisations and companies.  Phase 3 is under construction and on target for completion in July 2024

### 3. Next Steps

3.1	As described above, the University is reaching out to business organisations and local businesses. Strong business linkages are an essential element in the University's growth plans including in curriculum development, supporting local businesses and building and attracting a cluster of innovation and research-based businesses and organisations to the campus. The Business Board and its individual members may wish to consider how it can support the University further in the realisation of these growth ambitions.
3.2	Further development of the University and the successful targeting of a major research and development institution will be predicated by a successful Outline Planning Application for the

	expanded site and securing additional funding resources. These elements of the Project will be progressed as a matter of urgency.
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## 4. Appendices

4.1	Appendix A – ARU Peterborough Successes to date
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## 5. Implications

Financial Implications	
5.1	No financial implications
Legal Implications	
6.1	No legal implications
Public Health Implications	
7.1	No public health implications
Environmental & Climate Change Implications	
8.1	No environmental or climate change implications
Other Significant Implications	
9.1	No other implications
Background Papers	
10.1	None