

Agenda Item 3.3	Appendix
University of Peterborough Update	A

ARU Peterborough Successes to Date

- 1 The University of the Year title was secured at the prestigious [UK Social Mobility Awards](#), in recognition of the role [ARU Peterborough](#) is playing in advancing social mobility across the city and the wider region.
- 2 This follows success at the [University Alliance \(UK\) Awards 2023](#) and the [Association of University Directors of Estates \(AUDE\) awards](#).
- 3 ARU Peterborough's performance has played a key role in ARU being shortlisted for the Outstanding Contribution to the Local Community award in the prestigious [Times Higher Education Awards 2023](#) as well as for the overall University of the Year category.
- 4 University House, the main building at ARU Peterborough, is shortlisted for the forthcoming Higher Education Project of the Year in the [AJ Architecture Awards 2023](#), run by the *Architects' Journal*.
- 5 ARU received a Gold award for the quality of its education – the highest possible rating – in a UK-wide review of university teaching standards. [The Teaching Excellence Framework \(TEF\)](#) is a national scheme, run by the Office for Students (OfS), that focuses on the areas students care most about: teaching, learning, and achieving positive outcomes from their studies.
- 6 Extensive work continues with external partners and beneficiaries to ensure the city and region maximises the potential benefits of the new university. Engagement work continues with employers across the region. An example includes the successful Employer Engagement event, which brought together employers, both large companies and SME's, from different sectors who have been supporting the Peterborough 50 Apprenticeship campaign, many of whom currently have apprentices studying at ARUP. The conference included employer panels, industry workshops and an awards ceremony to celebrate the achievements of ARUP's learners. In this academic year, the University will launch its Employer Advisory Panels, consolidating and expanding its relationships with key sectors to drive forward its partnership approach to curriculum development.
- 7 Three of the first year Degree Apprentices won 'Apprentice of the Year' at the Peterborough Apprenticeship Awards 2023.
- 8 The university supported 700 small and micro businesses as part of Small Business Britain's Small and Mighty Enterprise programme. This scheme will increase significantly in 2023/24.
- 9 Fifty small and medium-sized businesses including many from the Peterborough area, were supported on the Help to Grow: Management programme.
- 10 The Create to Grow, "Creative East" programme has formally launched with ARU Peterborough due to host 1 of 4 cohorts. The Programme is an investment readiness and business support programme funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, led by New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership in partnership with Greater Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Norfolk County Council, Suffolk County Council, and delivered by University of East Anglia in partnership with ARU Peterborough, University of Suffolk and Norwich University of the Arts.
- 11 The university continues to build links and co-deliver events with business representative and support organisations. These include The Chamber of Commerce, FSB, CBI, Growth Works, Make UK, Opportunity Peterborough and the IOD. Members of the Business Board may wish to consider their role in helping to strengthen these relationships
- 12 The university has extensive links with public sector organisations, a recent example includes the prison service with an initiative to supply ARU Peterborough students with renovated bicycles from inmate workshops, and bi-directional visits for our Law students.

- 13 The university has an important role in supporting the cultural environment in the city, this has included its support for the Cultural Alliance. It has also supported a range of key cultural, arts and sporting activity in the city. This has included support for the Willow festival and the Peterborough Pride events over the Summer.
- 14 The university continues to deliver a wide range of community engagement activities. A recent example was the ARUP Community Day on 19 August across the campus. The event brought large numbers of the community, across all age groups, to the university. It also supported a range of local community organisations to showcase their work at the event, this included health partners, the police, sporting organisations, youth groups and local companies.
- 15 The campus also played host to the Youth Council event 'Youthfest'. The event included a panel session with civic leaders, including the Principal.
- 16 More than 30 community groups and events have been welcomed on campus. These range from drop-in sessions for local people with Peterborough police in the welcoming environment of University House to hosting the sell-out Peterborough Civic Society Annual Lecture by bestselling author Dr Janina Ramirez.
- 17 A new communications plan has been developed to support the next phase of the university development. This has been produced in collaboration with the university partners and will help further the aims of the university in engaging business and community stakeholders.
- 18 Work has started on [XRP eXtended Reality Peterborough](#), a new Centre of Excellence on the ground floor of the Peterborough Innovation and Research Centre which will deliver cutting-edge teaching and training facilities for both ARU Peterborough students and local employers. The funding was secured by the university through a competitive bidding process to the Office for Students.
- 19 More than 1,600 local school children visited ARU Peterborough in its first year. Visits were interactive, working with ARU Peterborough course teams to show students what a university has to offer, and aiming to inspire future generations – a key reason for establishing ARU Peterborough in the city.
- 20 The [Peterborough IntoUniversity Centre](#), supported by significant funding from ARU, was also launched to provide long-term educational support to young people facing disadvantage and who are typically underrepresented in higher education. The centre will support over 1000 students per year.
- 21 The centre, located in Norman Road close to several schools, is in an IMD (index of multiple deprivation) decile 2 area making it among the bottom 20% areas in the country in terms of relative deprivation. The local progression rate among young people to higher education is just 30%. This compares to a national average progression rate of 62% for the most advantaged students in England. In 2020/21, 47% of children were living in poverty in Peterborough, equating to over 13,200 young people.
- 22 The university's first international students started in Winter 2023 and were greeted with a civic reception from Peterborough's Mayor and Deputy Mayor.
- 23 The university continues to share best practice with other providers, this includes a [chapter](#) in a new book on employability published in May. The university continues to welcome visitors in key national roles, including the Chief Executive of Universities UK, Chief Executive of Guild HE and the Chief Executive of the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Students (OIA).
- 24 Several new courses were added to its portfolio in 2023/24. Data reported to the ARU Peterborough Board (11 September 2023) currently demonstrates a healthy year on year growth in applications and predicted registrations across the institution. The university has multiple points of entry for courses, with the most significant being September and January.
- 25 The new courses build on current provision and in all cases address the regional need of employers and provide high value courses with strong employability potential for ARUP students. These new courses include a suite of computing courses that have guided pathways allowing students to make an informed choice early in their studies about the areas of specialism they wish to pursue or if they wish to retain a broad-based degree. Specialist

subjects include cyber security and data analytics both of which are areas of key skills identified for future workforce development. The new integrated health and social care degree has been designed to reflect the new integrated approach to health care in the NHS and again provides an employment focused qualification with graduates who are work ready for a wide range of careers in the sector.

- 26 The commitment to a [strong portfolio of degree apprenticeships](#) has seen the launch of a number of new courses. The Registered Nurse (top up) is a good example of the ways in which ARUP are using the apprenticeship standards to directly support key stakeholders whilst also continuing the support of university alumni to progress their careers in the NHS. The top up allows students who have completed their nursing apprenticeship with ARUP, or another provider, to enrol on the course and take their studies to a higher level that makes them eligible for registration. Electromechanical Engineering Degree Apprenticeship was also launched and is in direct response from engineering employers about the relevance of this standard to their industry and the career progression routes within the sector that this qualification will make accessible.
- 27 At postgraduate level the University has built on the success of the January 2023 launch and introduced a new version of the International Business Management (IBM) which incorporates an innovative approach to employer engagement via a consultancy-based project module. The new public health promotion post graduate course has been designed in partnership with local public health-based organisations and is a refreshing approach to intervention and communication in public health which has been well received by stakeholders.
- 28 Planning is underway for additional provision to be available from September 2024. This includes the potential development of a civil engineering option, expanding the portfolio in the biosciences area and further enhancing the offering in gaming subjects. ARUP will also be introducing Initial Teacher training with Qualified Teacher Status as part of a wider ARU project.
- 29 The Post Graduate portfolio will continue to be developed building on the ARUP IBM framework to offer management courses in computing, health and engineering.
- 30 ARUP has received recognition from the Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) which means it is now able to offer a suite of environmental management short courses that can be targeted at early career staff, middle management or senior leaders in organisations.
- 31 In other areas, the university is planning to roll out a series of CPD for Sue Ryder which has again been designed as a bespoke package but will also be relevant to other organisations. Post qualification Continuing Professional Development in health such as Newborn Infant Physical Examination will also be delivered from 2023/24.
- 32 An internal perceptions survey of new students (September 2022/23 intake) was undertaken, looking at their views of ARU Peterborough and reasons for choosing the university. It highlighted the importance of the curriculum and location:
 - 88% would recommend ARU Peterborough to friends and family as a place to study
 - 98% chose ARU Peterborough because it offered the course they wanted to study
 - 82% chose ARU Peterborough because it is located in Peterborough
 - 84% chose ARU Peterborough because they didn't have to move house in order to study

Example quote from a student respondent:

"As a mother of 2 children under 3 years, I wouldn't have been able to attend university before ARU Peterborough opened due to travel time. ARU Peterborough has made it possible for me to achieve my dream."

- 33 A Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) Capacity Building project was launched to help support innovation in this part of the region. According to the Beauhurst database, only 121 businesses in Peterborough have received grants for R&D, compared to nearly 900 in

Cambridgeshire. The lack, until now, of a knowledge base in Peterborough is one reason for the low uptake of innovation grants and demonstrates the need for proactive academic engagement with Peterborough's businesses.

- 34 It is anticipated this project will facilitate 8, rising to 10, new KTPs per year over the next 1- 3 years, a significant advancement on the 3-4 KTPs achieved annually over recent years. Engagement in a region previously without any higher education provision offers a significant opportunity.
- 35 ARUP have been working with the NIHR ARC East of England – a key organisation that supports applied health and care research that responds to, and meets, the needs of local populations - to build our relationship and scope the potential for further work within Peterborough. ARUP were the host of the ARC East of England Peterborough Showcase 2023.
- 36 Several ARUP staff are involved in small scale consultancy projects some of which has been supported by Innovate UK funding, including a successfully project with Newcastle University.