

APRIL 2016

1. COREMUNICATE TOPICS ON VIDEO

There is no discussion topic this month, but I would like to thank colleagues for their feedback on “Community Engagement” covered below and for your feedback on the pilot video version of *CoreMunicate* that we trialled last month. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, so we have decided to provide a video briefing each month on two or three of the most prominent items featured in *CoreMunicate*.

This month’s video can be seen at <http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/pss/coremunicate/>

2. FEEDBACK – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In the March *CoreMunicate* we asked you for feedback as part of some consultation we are doing on the University’s work to engage our local communities. We asked you three main questions:

First we asked you what you felt were the most valuable activities the University undertakes to engage its local community. We had a wide range of responses, with the main focus on the University supporting: employment opportunities; educational opportunities for young people; and cultural engagement.

Second, we asked you what the main benefits were back into the University of having a successful relationship with the local community. You told us, among other things, that our local community provides: rich opportunities for the University to undertake world class research; provides support for an excellent student experience that enhances curricular and extra-curricular activities; and enhances the University’s reputation among leaders and citizens in Greater Manchester.

Finally, we asked you what we could do more of, or differently, to improve our contribution to the local community. Your ideas included: better focusing our work on particular priority groups e.g. older people or people out of work and opening up the campus, our resources and our expertise to the community. You also told us that we should be communicating what we already do better

Thank you for these comments. At the same time as consulting with you as staff, we have also been taking in the views of members of the local community and our students, and all of these will feed into an overall Plan that will be prepared in the coming months. We will keep you posted on progress

3. CAMPUS MASTERPLAN PROGRESS

Almost four years since we announced our vision for the campus, its transformation is now well underway.

A number of new buildings and refurbishments have been completed including the award-winning Whitworth. Over at the Alliance Manchester Business School, the hotel and executive education centre development is rising from the ground alongside the redevelopment of the business school itself. The Grosvenor Halls of residence have been demolished to make way for main building work to start on the engineering campus later this year. Over on the North Campus, the Faraday building and link bridge have been demolished in preparation for work to being on the Graphene Engineering Innovation Centre.

But it’s not just about new buildings, the University is committed to provide green, open spaces and an attractive environment to benefit all campus users. Inevitably there will be a loss of trees, but we are committed to ensuring that ultimately there will be a net gain overall across the campus. Plans have been submitted for a parkland to be created on Brunswick Street which will be closed to traffic, creating a central space at the heart of the campus for meeting and relaxation and large-scale events.

All this would not be possible without the hard work and professionalism of the many people within the Directorate of Estates and Facilities who are working with project sponsors and the many stakeholders involved to deliver this ambitious and

transformational programme. The Directorate of Estates and Facilities will be holding another **Open Meeting on Tuesday 26 April at 1pm in Lecture Theatre A Roscoe Building** to provide you with a further update on the masterplan and in particular the engineering campus, further details will be made available on StaffNet.

4. QUALITY SERVICES AND COST EFFECTIVENESS

A key Enabling Strategy in *Manchester 2020* is the commitment “to provide high-quality services that are fit for purpose, flexible, accessible, responsive and cost effective”.

As I indicated to the Board of Governors at the Planning and Accountability Conference last month (and in last month’s CoreMunicate), the PSS can demonstrate impressive progress against this goal over the past three or four years. We have improved the satisfaction with the support and services that we provide whilst reducing the cost of the PSS as a proportion of overall University income.

But we can and we must do more if the PSS is to play a leading role in enabling the University to create more “financial headroom” and release funds to invest in our future strategic priorities around our core goals of world-class research, outstanding learning and student experience and social responsibility.

We are already committed to taking a closer look at how we do things across the PSS and seeking to make them more efficient and effective – the “simplification and standardisation” agenda - and we have now set up a high-level group chaired by Professor Keith Brown, VP and Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, to move this initiative forward. Catherine Grills, Faculty Senior Project Manager in EPS, will be Secretary to the group. You can find details of the full membership on StaffNet at <http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=28561>

In pursuing this quality services and cost effectiveness agenda, we will be informed by data that we have received from the UniForum Benchmarking Project conducted by Cubane Consulting. This gives us a rich picture of functional activities and costs across the whole PSS and how these compare with other selected universities in the Russell Group. There is a lot more work to be done to understand the data, but it will be vital in examining the cost effectiveness of current and alternative models.

The driver for this agenda must be the commitment to Quality Services outlined in Enabling Strategy 6 in *Manchester 2020*, which commits us to “providing effective and efficient services that are customer-focused and represent value for money”. The strategy also recognises that “by delivering cost-effective services, the University is ensuring maximum investment in its frontline services”.

5. NATIONAL AWARD FOR FOOD ON CAMPUS AND “KEEP IT ON CAMPUS”

The University’s *FoodInResidence* catering team for halls of residence has won a prize in the prestigious Sustainable Restaurant Association’s Food Made Good Awards. The team took the top prize in the category of Best Food Waste Strategy. Top chef Raymond Blanc presented the award to a Myles Kitchiner, Operations Manager from *FoodInResidence*. Competition was stiff in this category, with Pizza Express and London caterer Vacherin also shortlisted. The catering team worked closely with the University’s Environmental Sustainability team.

Keep it on Campus is a campaign to encourage colleagues to Use University venues, catering and conference support services rather than take money outside the University. There are many facilities across campus including Chancellors Hotel and Manchester Meeting Place for staff wishing to host meetings and conferences. By keeping income inside the University, using our own teams and facilities to deliver great meetings, conferences and events, we save the University money which can be reinvested into areas such as research and education. The conference sales team are always available to advise and support on 0161- 306 4100 or conference@manchester.ac.uk

Will Spinks, Registrar, Secretary and Chief Operating Officer