

**Newark and Sherwood District Council
Local Plan Examination**

**Statement on Behalf of
Nottingham Trent University**

Friday 2nd February 2018 – 9:20 am

**Hearing 2
Question 23**



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Q23. Would it be appropriate to amend Policy SoAP1 (Role and Setting of Southwell) to reflect the opportunities inherent in additional student accommodation?

In dealing with the role and setting of Southwell, it is important to directly reference student accommodation, reflecting the inherent opportunities that may arise from its development, in line the Council's spatial strategy and other aspirations. Due to the unique situation in Southwell, being the location of the Nottingham Trent University (NTU) Brackenhurst Campus and the subsequent demands for on-Campus student accommodation, we respectfully consider an amendment to Policy SoAP2 to be more appropriate.

In its current form, Policy SoAP2 excludes reference to any future development of student accommodation at the NTU Brackenhurst Campus however, student accommodation, which is appropriate and contextually responsive, should be encouraged, promoting the social, economic and educational development of the University.

Additional on-Campus student accommodation would ensure that students are adequately housed in bespoke accommodation, suited to their needs. Unlike an urban campus, the majority of students at NTU Brackenhurst prefer to remain on site, in residences, in second and third years of study. Further, it is the University's acknowledged intention to increase student numbers at Brackenhurst. Additional student accommodation would encourage increased student numbers and future investment, supporting the longevity of the Campus and wider socio-economic benefits for Newark & Sherwood.

Supporting the development of new student accommodation at the NTU Brackenhurst Campus will balance student's accessibility requirements and the need to protect the character of established residential neighbourhoods, ensuring that the wellbeing of communities is maintained. On-Campus accommodation will facilitate provision of self-contained residential accommodation elsewhere; properties currently let to students could be occupied by other persons, increasing Southwell's housing stock and directly contributing to meeting the District's high housing growth requirements.

As you are no doubt aware, the Government is committed to delivering the homes and thriving places that the country needs, finding ways to enhance and improve the places in which people live their lives. The planning system must do everything it can to support sustainable economic growth. Planning policies should recognise

and seek to address potential barriers to investment, including any lack of infrastructure, services or housing. National Planning Practice Guidance makes it clear that it is incumbent on the planning system to ensure that the accommodation needs of students are met in conjunction with University requirements.

Supporting the development of new student accommodation in addition to new educational and research facilities will further promote and encourage the educational and social functions of the University, critical to the continued success and attraction of the Campus and extending to the wider Newark & Sherwood District.

In light of the above, NTU are seeking changes to Policy SoAP2 under the Effective Test of Soundness.