Social Impact Report
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The University of Northampton shows an exceptional level of commitment to the delivery of social impact and social innovation through its activities and initiatives.

We became the first University in the UK in 2013 to be awarded with a ‘Changemaker Campus’ designation by Ashoka U for our expertise in social innovation and social impact.

To further add to our socially innovative and impactful work, the University was awarded with a ‘Social Enterprise Gold Mark’ this year in recognition of our excellence in a number of areas, including governance; business ethics and good business practice; and social impact and financial transparency.

The University of Northampton was also given the Gold Award in the Government’s Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) – the highest rating possible which places us among the elite of the UK’s higher education institutions. TEF has been introduced as the only official table which recognises high-quality teaching that better meets the needs of employers, business, industry and the professions, in addition to guiding students on the best places to study.

We are dedicated to producing the Changemakers of the future. The information that has been included in this report has been gathered from all parts of the University, which clearly shows that our strategy of ‘Transforming Lives + Inspiring Change’ is grounded and real. We will continue to deliver on our mission and make a positive difference in the communities.

We hope you enjoy reading it.

Professor Nick Petford
Vice Chancellor of the University of Northampton
Highlights.

Industry inspectors praise University of Northampton for considerate approach to building £330 million campus.

Our approach to the construction of the Waterside Campus has been rated as exceptional by the Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS) – a national programme established by the construction industry to improve its image.

CCS inspectors were so impressed with the University, and its contractors Bowmer and Kirkland, Kier, and VolkerFitzpatrick, that they awarded Waterside nine-out-of-10 points in each of the scheme’s five categories, giving it an overall rating of ‘exceptional’.

The CCS praised a number of measures taken by the Waterside team to address the impact of the site on the community, including the appointment of a dedicated social responsibility liaison officer; regular residents’ newsletters; time restrictions on noisy work; restrictions on weekend working; complaints procedures in place; the use of local labour and suppliers; a public information board and information website, plus the implementation of a skills and apprenticeships scheme.

University partner wins national business award.

The University of Northampton social enterprise partner, Goodwill Solutions CIC, has won a UK Private Business Award at a ceremony held in London in September 2017.

Goodwill Solutions was awarded in the ‘Social Enterprise of the Year’ category, where the logistics experts beat off strong competition from five other socially-innovative organisations.

Founders of Goodwill Solutions, Mike Britton and Graham Tomkins, said they were delighted with the win. “To be recognised by such a prestigious award will help us to raise the profile of social business. Combining social impact with true commercial income will drive social mobility, and reduce disadvantage throughout the UK,” said Graham.

Goodwill Solutions provides work programmes for disabled people, ex-offenders and the long-term unemployed, and has been recognised in several awards this year, including being selected as a regional winner in the Barclays High-Growth and Entrepreneur Awards, and named one of Europe’s fastest-growing business in the FT1000 list.

During the last four years, Goodwill has supported more than 400 clients through its programmes, resulting in more than 300 gaining paid employment. In 2012, the University joined the business as a stakeholder due to a shared ethos of creating a positive impact on society.

Goodwill’s work has resulted in over £6 million of value to the taxpayer, calculated in benefits saved, and tax being paid.
University of Northampton hits the Gold Mark with social enterprise award win.

The University of Northampton joined a growing list of universities and organisations committed to making an impact in society after winning an international award. Vice Chancellor, Professor Nick Petford, accepted the Social Enterprise Gold Mark from Social Enterprise Mark CIC in recognition of our excellence in a number of areas, including:

- Governance (for instance, our board processes are accountable and democratic)
- Business ethics and good business practice (our equality and diversity policies are second to none)
- Social impact and financial transparency (our funds support social and environmental impact)

The Gold Mark adds further recognition to our social impact work. In 2013 we became the first UK University to be called a ‘Changemaker Campus’ by Ashoka U, joining universities and colleges around the world recognised as global leaders in social innovation.

Cadet Forces increase social mobility and help disadvantaged kids reach potential.

A University of Northampton report demonstrating significant social impact of the UK’s cadet forces has been welcomed by Defence Secretary.

The newly unveiled research looked at the entire cadet programme and found that joining the cadets offers a range of benefits to the individuals involved, and the wider community.

According to the report’s lead author, these include increasing social mobility and helping kids from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Meenu Bajwa-Patel, Senior Researcher at the Institute for Social Innovation and Impact, said: “The evidence so far has been overwhelmingly positive and demonstrates that the Cadet Forces can make a huge difference to social inclusion, social mobility and the mental wellbeing of young people.”

The ongoing, four-year study by the University’s Institute for Social Innovation and Impact is using Government data and original research to measure the economic and social benefits delivered by the Cadet Forces.
Key areas of activity.

Social Impact Report 2016-2017:

- Community Engagement
- Knowledge and Skills
- Sustainability
- Global Innovation
- Procurement
- Partnerships and Commercial Activities
**Community Engagement.**

- Our Students’ Union raised over £12,000 through the Student Societies’ fundraising activities for charities and causes.
- The University has signed the Armed Forces Covenant promising to support its employees who are currently serving as reservists, cadet force instructors, or have previously completed a full-time military career.
- The Changemaker Award for Post-16 students, launched in January 2017, already has four secondary schools working towards their award.
- 1500 children and young people from 19 primary and 13 secondary schools across Northamptonshire attended our first annual Big Bang Near Me event.

**Knowledge and Skills.**

- The University’s Enterprise Club has helped staff, students and graduates set up 43 new social enterprises and businesses in 2016-2017.
- The University has piloted a unique project in HMP Onley prison to explore new approaches to education in both the prison and the University.
- Our Institute for Social Innovation and Impact is carrying out a four-year research project studying the social impact of the cadet forces. This project has been commissioned by the Ministry of Defence.
- Our Institute of Logistics, Infrastructure, Supply and Transport is working on a project to help transform the provision of public and community transport across Northamptonshire.

**Sustainability.**

- Water consumption down 20% compared to the 2005-2006 baseline.
- 53.8% students and 14% staff travelled by foot, bicycle, bus or by train to the campus.
- The University reused, recycled or composted 68.5% of its total waste.
- 46.9 tonnes of food waste collected from halls of residences and restaurants used to generate electricity.

**Global Innovation.**

- Student Emma Leering has set up a new school in Malawi in Africa to support village women to learn English.
- Institute for Social Innovation and Impact’s Social Impact Matrix© has been turned into an online tool that can be distributed globally.

**Procurement.**

**Waterside Social Impact:**

- 755 local people employed on the Waterside site through the project supply chain.
- 40 local suppliers are engaged with the project.
- Over 200 new jobs have been created for people in Northamptonshire as a result of the Waterside Campus project.

**Partnerships and Commercial Activities.**

- Inspire2Enterprise and Northamptonshire Growth Hub have supported a total of 2,040 clients.
- As a result of Inspire2Enterprise’s work with HMP Rye Hill, a Community Interest Company has been set up in a prison.

We provide first class environment for our students and staff to develop their knowledge and skills to prepare them to be productive citizens in the communities in which they live and work.

Funds raised for important causes.

Our Students’ Union has raised over £12,000 through the Student Societies’ fundraising activities for various charities and causes such as Autism Concern, Children in Need, Cancer Research, and the Hope Centre.

Sleeping rough to raise money for a homeless charity.

The Cheerleading Club at the University slept outside for 12 hours to gain a better understanding of what it is like to be homeless, and to raise vital funds in aid of Hope Centre, a local charity that aims to relieve poverty and tackle the causes of homelessness.

The members of the club raised over £350 as they spent a whole night outside in temperatures as low as -3°C to complete their challenge.

Creating change in the local community.

The Students’ Union’s newly created Media and Journalism Society has been making an impact by partnering with a local business Johnny’s Happy Place, a coffee shop in Kettering that supports those experiencing mental health problems and provides food to those in need.
Case study: Students' Union Media and Journalism Society.

Johnny’s Happy Place was founded by Denise MacKay, the mother of a 29 year-old creative writer named Johnny, who tragically took his own life two years ago. The coffee shop on Rockingham Road was opened in his memory to support those facing similar challenges and has since gone on to support the local homeless who find food banks closed over the weekends.

The Students’ Union’s Media and Journalism Society were first introduced to Johnny’s Happy Place at the University of Northampton’s Changemaker Awards Dinner, where the social enterprise staff were invited guests, and the society were eager to see how they could support the local business through the skills they were developing as part of their student group. Bruna Tomsic, President of the Media and Journalism Society said: “We wanted to help support Johnny’s Happy Place because on meeting them at the Changemaker Awards Dinner, it was clear that they put in a lot of hard work for a very worthy cause, raising awareness of mental health in their local community. Johnny’s mother, Denise, is doing some amazing things and we really admired her positivity and strength and were keen to help however we could.”

The Society began by producing a short video for fellow students that explored the idea of happy places and positive mental wellbeing before taking to the airwaves and promoting the business on a local radio station, NNBC. Also, in December they hosted a fundraising event that raised £200 in donations for Johnny’s Happy Place and attracted in kind support from local businesses including Northampton Town Football Club.

Despite the society being only months old, the society’s members have recorded over 200 community volunteering hours and their initial activities have developed their organisational, leadership and communication skills, which they are determined to ensure can be used to deliver a positive social impact in the local community in the years to follow.

As a result of their efforts the Media and Journalism Society received the Students’ Union Changemaker Award at its annual Society and Volunteering Awards held in April 2017.

Our commitment to supporting the Armed Forces.

The University has signed the Armed Forces Covenant promising to support its employees who are currently serving as reservists, are volunteer instructors with cadet forces, or have previously completed a full-time military career.

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise by the nation ensuring that those who serve or have previously served in the Armed Forces, and their families, are treated fairly.

John Wilson, the Ministry of Defence’s Regional Employer Engagement Director, said: “We are delighted that the University has signed the Armed Forces Covenant. This is an important and overt statement of our commitment and support to our Armed Forces, both Regular and Reserve, and to ex-service personnel and to their families.

We have always supported the Military in this University. We had a Captain in the Army doing his MBA by distance learning during the last Gulf War and we made all the arrangements necessary to ensure he could complete his studies successfully. We are affiliated to the Officer Training Corps (Army) and a University Royal Naval Unit, and we have applied to be affiliated to the University Air Squadron.

These University Service Units give our students fantastic opportunities to develop new skills and gain leadership qualifications, enjoy unique experiences with the Army, Navy or Air Force, and get paid while they are doing it.

We are currently one year in to a four-year research project studying the social impact of the cadet forces, which is producing results that the Ministry of Defence is very excited about. In addition, Dr Mils Hills in the Faculty of Business and Law is an expert consultant to the Military. Signing the Covenant is important as it makes clear that we are serious about supporting the UK’s Armed Forces.”

University’s Professor Simon Denny, who signed the Covenant on behalf of the University, said: “The University of Northampton is delighted to announce that it has signed up to the Military Covenant. This is an important and overt statement of our commitment and support to our Armed Forces, both Regular and Reserve, and to ex-service personnel and to their families.

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Photo: Professor Simon Denny (left) from the University and Lt Col David Dawber (right) from the Ministry of Defence at the University’s Park Campus.
Changemaker activities.

The University’s Changemaker Hub, a one stop-shop for Employability, Changemaker and Enterprise, is at the forefront of encouraging and delivering impact through its activities and initiatives.

Give it a go.

‘Give it a go’ is a Changemaker Hub funding programme for students and alumni to enable them to explore a social problem and develop a solution either in the form of a project or a social enterprise.

In 2016-2017, 26 students applied for the funding and a total of £8,500 was awarded to fund ten socially innovative projects, including:
- pop-up healthy food stall on campus called Green and Lean;
- story telling events;
- development of a mental health and well-being magazine;
- development of a time bank website for students called Skills Barter;
- development of LGBT youth support group.

The Changemaker Hub has also been working with Powerful Nonsense, who are alumni of the University and have developed a social enterprise themselves. Powerful Nonsense deliver the spark, motivation and mentorship to the students who have ideas.

Changemaker Café.

Changemaker Café, a free monthly networking event for community and third sector organisations in Northamptonshire, provides a platform for community organisations, and staff and students of the University of Northampton to network and explore ways of working together. There are currently over 30 organisations attending the events.

Some examples of events already held on Campus include:
- consultation sessions with students and community organisations to explore their social media needs. The students also held a digital media conference called the Changemaker DING to help the organisations to develop their social media skills;
- working with professional production teams to produce video, audio, website material and other promotional material that the community organisations can use to further their cause.

Photo: Student Mavis Mundirwa, winner of the ‘Give it a go’ fund for her ‘Power of The Mind Networks’ initiative which involves story telling events, and building empathy amongst diverse communities.

Photo: Our students busy networking with local community organisations at the Changemaker Café; auditing their digital marketing needs to kick start their Changemaker DING event.
The Schools Engagement team in the Changemaker Hub works with schools and schoolchildren in Northamptonshire to encourage social impact. They host events and opportunities that are intended to inspire children and young people to achieve their potential and consider university as a route to their future. The opportunities hosted at the university and within community venues have inspired many children from the county to consider their educational ambitions.

Here are some of the key events and activities that the Schools Engagement team has delivered over the course of 2016-2017.

**Changemaker School Awards.**

Once again, the Changemaker Student Award has proven to be very valuable to schools in the county with a record number of schools registering a desire to make a difference in their school or community. For the first time this year, a local cluster of primary schools is working collaboratively with their secondary partner, The Ferrers School in East Northamptonshire, to make a difference to their shared environment.

The Changemaker Award for Post-16 students, launched in January 2017, already has four secondary schools working towards their award. With a residential experience focussed on volunteering and social innovation this award focuses on gaining valuable volunteering experience and skills to be able to transfer them into their school and community environment, making a difference to the lives of other children and young people.

**Literacy.**

Literacy plays such a key role in students’ success in all subjects and key stages in schools. By hosting and leading an opportunity for children to build their literacy confidence to enter the BBC2 500 words competition, the Schools Engagement team is supporting schools in their key aim of raising literacy standards, enabling children to access all aspects of their curriculum. 14 schools, both primary and secondary, took part in the inaugural 500 words event held by the Schools Engagement team in December 2016, with over 75 children working to produce a first draft of their entry to the national competition.

**Full STEAM Ahead!**

Pinnacle Climbing Centre, Adrenaline Alley, Irchester Country Park, RS Components and the Rivers and Canals Trust have worked in partnership with the University of Northampton throughout 2016-2017 to offer dynamic STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and maths) events for a range of school age groups.

These events have not only inspired children from primary and secondary schools to work hard at school but also to consider a university route into a career and achieve their potential. Working in close partnership with local providers allows the Schools Engagement team to offer bespoke workshops and opportunities that would not be available in schools. It enables the University to inform children and young people of the graduate opportunities and careers that exist, that will excite and reward them throughout their working life.
Big Bang Near Me event.

1500 children and young people from 19 primary and 13 secondary schools across Northamptonshire attended our first annual Big Bang Near Me event held in March 2017.

We showcased STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and maths) careers and opportunities by bringing together over 33 local and national exhibitors (Nissan and Google included) and higher education partners to make this the single biggest schools event the university has ever hosted. 35 undergraduate students from the University were also involved.

The day included dynamic STEAM shows, exhibits and interactive workshops and focussed on, amongst other subjects, how the arts can play a crucial role in STEAM careers. Logistics was also a key part of the event as Northamptonshire strives to recruit enough young apprentices and graduates to this crucial local industry.

The school children took part in workshops and presentations and received a wide range of career information from both local and national employers. They had the opportunity to learn how the science of podiatry, engineering and technology go hand-in-hand with fashion, media, creative theatre, music, and fine art.

Natasha Mycawka, Aspire Schools Engagement Lead at the University of Northampton, said: “The Big Bang event was part of a programme of UK-wide events that aim to get young people excited about the STEAM subjects by bringing them to life and showing them how science is all around us and very much part of our everyday lives. We are exceptionally proud that so many of our undergraduate students engaged in delivering workshops on the day, sharing their passion and talent with young people from across the county.”
2. Knowledge and Skills.

We ensure our staff, students, and graduates are equipped with the necessary skills required to make a positive difference in their communities by getting them involved in various socially innovative initiatives and activities. We ensure that our research is not only applicable and relevant, but also impactful to address important issues in the communities.

Supporting entrepreneurs.

The University’s Enterprise Club has supported staff, students and graduates to set up 43 new social enterprises and businesses in the past year.

Case study: Helping students to launch their own businesses

Laura Roklicer, a second year Media Production and Psychology student, has launched her own video production company ‘My Own Global Signature’ (MOGS), with the help from the University’s Enterprise Club.

MOGS provides music and promotional videos for local businesses and talents, and specialises in spending time getting to know the client and concentrating on pre-production to get to the core purpose of the business or group, aiming to portray who they are rather than what they do. Laura finds that this approach is more successful and helps the client sell more. Whilst MOGS is currently working locally, Laura’s three-year plan is to start working nationally and then globally. MOGS launched in June 2016 and has already tasted success. It has worked with seven clients made up of local businesses and bands.

It successfully applied for a £500 Santander business development grant and this allowed them to get the business off the ground. Laura commented: “The University’s Enterprise Club provided us with valuable information and advice and were very approachable. They answered my questions and guided me in the direction I wanted to go. We now know exactly how we want to proceed and have turned my idea into reality.”
Entrepreneurial students making a difference.

Student Hulda Adao has launched an online business called EyeSpeak to tackle our modern society’s problems.

Case study:
Tackling issues in society.

Our student Hulda Adao, who is studying International Tourism Management and Event Management, has launched an online business called EyeSpeak.

EyeSpeak is hosted on YouTube and includes videos that are aimed at 16-25 year olds which address social, environmental and taboo issues such as homelessness, relationship issues, racism, sexual identity, gender and bullying.

The videos are also complemented with blogs and podcasts that are designed to provoke discussion amongst young people about issues which are often seen as taboo, and are therefore something that cannot easily be discussed comfortably. This could include issues around religion, and pronouns for the LGBTQ+ community.

Hulda explained: “EyeSpeak was started after I realised the extent of how social issues effect thousands of people every day and most social issues are unknown to many young people. A lot of young people feel alone in their circumstances. EyeSpeak provides a platform for individuals to see how there are other people going through the same or similar situation. Our message has expanded and we now have teams in three different cities across England and have appeared in several media outlets such as BBC Radio Northampton; The Voice and a newspaper Brixton Bugle. We want to create a sub-conscious pharmacy on the web where young people can go to and leave knowing they are taking something out of it.”

Hulda continued: “Some have said how the platform has allowed them to express themselves and their views in such a manner that no other platform has done. It has also encouraged them to start up their own projects. Some have used the platform to share their own personal experiences with social issues in order to help others who might be going through the same issues. We are currently working on an outreach project where we are encouraging more people to send in their stories and share their thoughts through interviews and podcasts.

“The University of Northampton has helped EyeSpeak in the most amazing way. The Changemakers programme is closely linked as it focuses on social and environmental issues and citizen participation. As well as Changemakers programme, Chris Fidler from the University’s PR team has supported the business by sending out press releases to several organisations. Furthermore Rachael Rose-Smith, my tutor, has guided me on the path of how we can expand in different forms and maximise our message and reach.”
Case study: Raising awareness about important issues.

Student Bethel Tadesse is studying Education Studies with Social Care at the University. Bethel has been working to improve women’s rights and health and has launched her own organisation called Hidden Scars in order to raise awareness in the fight against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

FGM is a procedure where female genitals are deliberately cut, injured or changed, and where there is no medical reason for this to be done. The procedure is mostly carried out on young girls between infancy and 15 years of age and can cause severe and long-lasting damage to physical and emotional health.

“I started Hidden Scars because I wanted to create FGM awareness in Northampton. Starting my project was not easy but I received great advice from the University and Zimwomen association (an organisation that I volunteered with during my first year of degree course) and they encouraged me to start my project. I decided to focus the project on FGM because out of all of the things I wanted to do, FGM was what I was most passionate about” said Bethel.

Hidden Scars aims to put an end to the practice of FGM and is currently working with people and groups in Northampton and Leeds (Bethel’s home town). Bethel explained: “My aim is to inform as many people as I can about the issue of FGM and do my bit in saving a girl from going through it.”

Bethel has organised and run FGM safeguarding events for members of the public and has also been working with Northamptonshire Police and Northampton General Hospital to spread the organisation’s message. Bethel also delivers lectures at universities to educate students who otherwise would not have known or heard about FGM.

The University of Northampton’s Mark Allenby, Programme Lead for Social and Community Development, said: “Bethel used her first year volunteering module to make contacts with both local and national organisations. Her professionalism and desire to make a difference was clear right from the start of her course. Bethel shows that whilst studying is important, what is more important is to use your education to make a difference in areas that matter most to you.”

In the future, Bethel hopes to continue to educate people about FGM and has recently started a YouTube channel to reach out to a much wider audience about the issue. Bethel is also looking to start working on menstrual health and her new project providing disadvantaged women and girls with sanitary products will be starting this year.

Talking about the support that she received from the University of Northampton, Bethel said: “The university provided funding to help me set up Hidden Scars and that really helped me with the work I did in Northampton as funding for small projects can be very difficult. I have also had great support from my lecturers and other students which has helped me continue my work.”

Students go to prison.

The idea was to bring university students and prisoners together and teach them the same topics, encouraging them to engage with each other in discussions.

The module involved three sessions in HMP Onley, each lasting three hours. It involved two academics, 14 students, and one prison facilitator.

Dr Manos Daskalou, Senior Lecturer in Criminology at the University of Northampton who led the project, said: “As with all new groups, the students took a short while to get to know each other but they were soon in deep discussion. It was amazing to see a classroom come alive and to see the exchange of ideas breaking down all boundaries (in a prison, of all places). Through the three teaching sessions, we all observed the transformative effect of education.”

At the beginning, Manos focussed on how he could ensure that all learners had equal opportunities to contribute. They also needed to think about the challenges, such as the type or level of reading material and whether, or not, all students would prepare and participate in the classes.

Manos added: “Without everyone’s involvement and enthusiasm, the pilot would not succeed. Fortunately, these concerns did not materialise and the pilot is now Criminology's newest Year 3 module.”

The learners involved reported among other things that they “enjoyed the learning as it was based on mutual respect and the diversity of ideas.”

One of the learners said: “I will definitely remember it for life as it has taught me so many things that someone could only perceive from the outside.”

Photo: Some of the students taking part in the pilot at HMP Onley
Delivering impactful research.
We produce internationally renowned and relevant research, and disseminate knowledge to wide-ranging stakeholders.

Our Institute for Social Innovation and Impact (ISII) is a global leader in research on social innovation and social impact, whilst remaining committed to supporting the local community in line with the University’s strategic aims and Changemaker Challenges.

During 2016-2017, ISII published over 30 research outputs across a variety of mediums.

Some of the key partners and stakeholders, as well as funders, that ISII is working with to deliver social innovation, promote social impact and support policymakers, include the European Commission, Cabinet Office, HM Treasury, Ministry of Defence, The British Council, and the National Economics University in Vietnam.

Key project: UK Cadet Forces.
ISII is evaluating the social impact of the cadet forces. This research seeks to establish the social impact of UK cadet forces in relation to both the young people and adult volunteers that they engage with.
Commissioned by the Ministry of Defence, the research will support the government to make evidence-based policy decisions in relation to the future direction of UK cadet forces, specifically in relation to the impact of the new Cadet Expansion Programme that will lead to 500 cadet units being based in schools.
ISII has provided the MOD with significant evidence of the impact that is delivered annually by the £160 million cadet force funding. This has demonstrated that the cadet forces create at least £400 million in social impact for UK society and act as a key contributor to the ‘shared society’ in relation to employability, community cohesion and education.
**Key project:**

**Supply chain visibility.**

AEOLIX, a European Commission funded project, aims to revolutionise the transportation of goods across Europe by establishing a cloud-based collaborative logistics system which will allow each stakeholders to access, exchange, and use information.

This project will revolutionise how logistics systems operate and further, how societies will become more efficient from a cost, carbon and service function.

In addition, the platform will enable greater sustainability to be achieved with business eco-systems and greatly enhance Europe as a global logistics trading partner.

**Key project:**

**Circular Economy.**

This European Commission (Horizon 2020) funded project provides solutions for end of life plastics contained in electrical and electronics equipment value chains.

It impacts directly on societies through the processes that end of life products and associated materials are leveraged to minimise impact, both from environment impact and supporting economic development, whilst future proofing sustainable eco-systems.

In bringing together value chain stakeholders, the research will impact on the future of business, commercial operations and societal value in eradicating waste and delivering social value through efficiency.

**Key project:**

**Transformational travel.**

LIST is working in partnership with Northamptonshire County Council on an initiative funded by the Department for Transport to help transform the provision of public and community transport across Northamptonshire.

Outputs of the research have created a social enterprise to deliver holistic transport commissioning across business, education and health sectors that not only minimise cost, but greatly enhance service, health and wellbeing, and innovative city solutions.

The research is further strengthening academic research and policy creation in the areas of connected and all-inclusive transportation, while delivering against clear and measured social impact goals.

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The Institute of Logistics, Infrastructure, Supply and Transport (LIST) is committed to the development of research, enterprise and teaching globally.

Some of the key partners and stakeholders, as well as funders that LIST is working with to deliver research, enterprise and education are the Department for Transport, European Commission and Northamptonshire County Council, along with the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply, All-party Parliamentary Resource group to deliver impact and influence in the areas of logistics and supply chain management.
3. Sustainability.

As a University, we are always looking for ways to improve our environmental performance by managing our resources effectively.

Environmental impact.

Water
There was a 20 per cent reduction in water consumption per m² in 2016-2017 compared to the 2005-2006 baseline.

Waste
The University reused, recycled or composted 68.5 per cent of its total waste.

46.9 tonnes of food waste was collected from Halls of Residences and Restaurants and was used to generate electricity. The waste collected includes vegetable and fruit peels, tea bags, meat bones, and food waste. It is sent to an anaerobic digester which traps the gases, primarily methane from bacteria fermentation, and burns this in a generator for electricity. Methane is over 20 times more global warming than Carbon Dioxide. Trapping this gas and using it for fuel helps combat global warming.

Travel
53.8 per cent of students travelled by foot, bicycle, bus or by train to campus.

14 per cent of staff travelled by foot, bicycle, bus or by train to campus.

Renewable Energy
Renewable energy was generated through solar hot water panels on William Carey Halls of residence and solar PV panels on the roof of Sulgrave and St John’s Halls of Residence.

20,183 kWh of solar energy was generated in 2016-2017

Waterside campus will have a 995KW biomass boiler using renewable local biomass woodchip fuel saving over 1,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year.
All human activities can potentially have an impact on the biodiversity of the local environment in which they occur. The impact can be positive or negative, depending upon how the activity is managed and how the impact is mitigated.

The development of the University’s new Waterside Campus is in the middle of the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area (NIA) and very close to internationally important bird sites. Biodiversity monitoring on large infrastructure developments is rarely done because there is no statutory requirement. However, the University of Northampton recognises a social obligation to manage and monitor biodiversity on its campuses that can in turn provide opportunities for research and student learning. As part of the project, the social and environmental impact of Waterside is being evaluated, which includes an assessment of the effect that the development has on the wildlife in and around the site.

Professor Jeff Ollerton, along with his colleagues Dr Janet Jackson and Dr Duncan McCollin, and undergraduate students, have carried out surveys of winter and spring bird diversity to assess the effects of construction activities and habitat creation on local biodiversity at the Waterside Campus. The findings showed that winter bird diversity has declined more than spring diversity. However, as well as losing species, the site has also gained other bird species that were not previously recorded. In addition, most of the ‘missing’ birds could also return once the new campus opens in 2018.

The team is also working with the wider project team which includes landscape architects (LUC), other partners from the NIA project board, and the local Wildlife Trust, in order to discuss the plans for the green infrastructure of the campus.

Speaking about the impact of this project, Professor Ollerton said:

“Biodiversity is often the forgotten dimension to environmental sustainability, and is over-shadowed by other issues such as energy, waste, and water. However wildlife is a critical part of the environmental heritage of Northamptonshire. This long-term project is an exciting opportunity for us as an institution of learning and social change to assess and conserve the other species with which we coexist.”

Photo: Academic staff and undergraduate students conducting surveys to assess the biodiversity impact of Waterside Campus.
Northampton has had a recent addition to its skyline in the shape of a 26-metre flue shaft, complete with LED screen, which is part of the University of Northampton’s new energy centre located on its Waterside Campus.

The University worked closely with sustainable energy specialists, Vital Energi, to construct the energy centre. The energy centre has been designed to produce less emissions than traditional systems and will save over 1,000 tons of CO2 in the short term by using woodchip biomass and gas to provide hot water and low carbon heating to buildings around the campus. This will rise to 2,200 tons annually once the Combined Heat and Power Engine is added to the centre. This is the equivalent of taking 431 cars off the road each year.

The flue shaft is approximately the height of three London buses and its unique 12 metre-high LED screen, fitted by screen experts digiLED, will be showcasing the University at the gateway to the town on the Bedford Road.

Mike Cooke, Regional Director at Vital Energi, commented: “Creating a renewable energy solution for a new town centre campus is an ambitious objective, however the University has achieved this whilst demonstrating their commitment to sustainability. From the energy centre’s unique architecture and cladding through to the LED screen of the flue shaft, the scheme creates a great example for the industry.”

Bob Griggs, Project Director at the University of Northampton said: “We are delighted to have the opportunity to develop the University’s commitment to its sustainability agenda and environmental infrastructure has been a key factor in the planning and construction of the Waterside Campus. By working with Vital Energi we have a sustainable, future proof heating network which will service the campus well.”

Photo: Marking the completion in a special ceremony on 1st August where the screen was officially switched on by Professor Nick Petford, Vice Chancellor of the University of Northampton.

Working with partners and organisations across the globe enables us to deliver even more social impact.

Creating social change.

Student Emma Leering, who is studying International Development course at the University of Northampton, has set up a new school in Malawi to provide local women with opportunities to learn English language skills and gain employment.
Case study:
Student opens new school in Malawi

Student Emma Leering opened a new school in Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi, in September 2017. This is the second school that she has opened in Malawi.

The first school was set up in Mangochi in 2014 whilst Emma was volunteering as a teacher in a rural primary school, when she first came up with the idea of supporting the village women to learn English.

Emma said: “While I was a volunteer teacher in the Bolera Palms School, I soon realised that supporting the children to have the best possible life chances was only one small part of the way I could help the people of Malawi.”

Emma has now set up a new school where she will be working with women in Lilongwe who lack basic education skills but have the passion to learn English language skills to help them secure employment.

Since she first launched her venture now called United Amayi, the venture has given 60 women in the Bolera region of Malawi the opportunity to learn conversational English. These women have now gone on to get employment and create sustainable income for them and their families, with women now selling their own farm produces and working within local hotel resorts. Emma hopes to continue the same impact with the new school.

Emma has also been working with the University of Northampton’s Changemaker Hub team and the Enterprise Club to develop her business plan and secure sustainable funding to safeguard the future of the schools, and the women it helps.

Emma said: “The help that I have received from the University’s Changemaker Hub team and the Enterprise Club has been invaluable. I am so excited to see how the venture and the women can grow together over the next few years.”
New link forged with top Vietnamese university.

Our Institute for Social Innovation and Impact (ISII) is influencing policy across the globe. ISII’s research in social innovation has led to it being asked to support the National Economics University (NEU) in Hanoi, Vietnam, in the establishment of their new research and policy orientated ‘Centre for Social Innovation’.

ISII staff will act as key strategic external advisors to this project and has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NEU based on this.

The ISII-developed Social Impact Matrix© for social impact measurement, which provides a simple yet robust tool for social enterprises (and other organisations) to use, has been turned into an online tool that can be distributed globally. The Vietnam National University has developed its own franchise model of the Social Impact Matrix©. The Vietnamese version of the Matrix has been used to support nascent social entrepreneurs in Vietnam in proving their social impact to partners and stakeholders.

Making a difference in Sierra Leone.

The University has been working in Sierra Leone which has been devastated by a war and more recently by the outbreak of Ebola.

The University was recently awarded a contract, funded by the NGO Sightsavers, to carry out an investigation into the current conditions in Sierra Leone’s schools.

The University’s Professor Richard Rose, along with his colleagues Professor Philip Garner and Dr Brenna Farrow, have been carrying out research by collecting data from all regions in the country. The team has prepared a project report for the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, making recommendations to improve infrastructure, training and resourcing of schools.

Talking about the project, Richard said: “The opportunity to work on research that has the potential to assist those who are seeking to improve the lives of children and parents in one of Africa’s most disadvantaged countries, is a tremendous privilege. The University of Northampton, with its commitment to promoting social change, must remain at the forefront of initiatives such as this if it is to live up to its mission.”
5. Procurement.

The University of Northampton is committed to delivering greater social value and social impact through its procurement processes.

Waterside social impact.

One of the ways in which we are delivering social impact and social value is through the construction of our new £330 million Waterside Campus. We are working with Bowmer and Kirkland, academic buildings contractor; and Kier, student accommodation building contractor, to ensure positive social impact is being delivered through the construction of the Waterside Campus. The University is also working with XMA, Waterside IT provider, to map out the Key Performance Indicators to deliver social impact through the IT contract.

Providing valuable experiences.

As a result of the creation of the Waterside Campus, various apprenticeship posts and work placement opportunities have been created for students.

One of our Architectural Technology graduates, Volkan Aslan, is currently doing a work placement with Bowmer and Kirkland as a Trainee Design Manager. Talking about this experience, he said: “It’s been a wonderful opportunity for me. Being a member of this enthusiastic team has enabled me to translate my theoretical knowledge into practical experience. I’ve learnt so much that will be invaluable in my future career.”

Delivering the maximum social impact.

Bowmer and Kirkland has been working with Community Wood Recycling, a trading arm of a social enterprise called National Community Wood Recycling Project which collects wood waste in caged trucks and loads them by hand, to recycle the wood waste that is collected from the Waterside Site. The collections from Waterside began in April 2017 and the waste collected so far has been used completely for recycled materials.

Kier is working with RE: Store Northampton which is a charity run by Central Vineyard Church that supports local people by providing food and necessities to those in need in the Northampton area. Staff from Kier are being encouraged to make donations to the charity that includes food and non-food items such as washing powder and cleaning products. Since many of their staff go to the local supermarket for lunch, it’s a prompt to stop and think about those who are going hungry, and to add a food bank item to their basket.

Over 200 new jobs have been created for people in Northamptonshire as a result of the Waterside Campus project.

755 local people employed on site through the project supply chain.

40 local suppliers are engaged with the project from multiple sectors.
Here are some of the ways in which the University and contractors, Kier, and Bowmer and Kirkland, are doing ‘good stuff’ that makes a positive difference in the community.

**Engaging with local schools**

The University and contractor Bowmer and Kirkland launched an art competition for local school children and young people to become more involved with the Waterside Campus. The two partners encouraged local school children to create an image showing what living in Northampton means to them. The entries were then judged and the best artists were invited down to paint the final designs onto the hoardings which will be seen by thousands of people, visitors and residents.

The winners were 112 pupils from Delapre Primary School and 11 children belonging to the Bowmer and Kirkland site team and other sub-contractors.

The design created was the Waterside Express – a train with carriages depicting the highlights of Northampton. The outline of the design was drawn by local entrepreneur and artist, and University of Northampton graduate, Marvin Mudzongo of Lemonpop Workshops. He used the ideas from the children’s artwork to create the design in the carriages.

The Waterside Express was one of 70 entries submitted to the national Considerate Constructors Scheme for the Ivor Goodsite Hoarding Competition and was declared as one of the winners.

**Grow Wild initiative**

Kier contractors has been working with a local school to transform a temporary garden at the Waterside Campus site into a colourful space.

Six pupils and two teaching staff from Delapre Primary School in Northampton participated in the initiative and planted the area with vegetables, herbs and the Grow Wild seeds. Some of the seeds and seedlings were taken back to the school by the pupils and teachers to plant in the school garden.

The Grow Wild initiative is an educational and environmental scheme that involves growing native wildflowers and improving the biodiversity on a construction site.

Guy Osborne, Construction Manager at Kier, said: “The small garden at the Waterside site is now full of wildflowers which attract pollinators such as bees, companion plants to keep bugs off the vegetables, and the first signs of something edible (beans, lettuce, carrots, tomatoes, courgette). We are thankful to Delapre Primary School for their participation and involvement.”
Providing a supporting environment for entrepreneurs.

The University of Northampton’s Innovation Centre provides a supportive environment for entrepreneurs and businesses seeking to deliver social impact, social value, and social change. Total Control Pro Ltd is one such business who moved their operation to the Innovation Centre and has been benefiting from the facilities since.

Case study: Total Control Pro Ltd - Driving social impact through innovative manufacturing intelligence software.

Total Control Pro Ltd is committed to supporting small-to-medium sized manufacturing businesses to adopt and realise the benefits of Industry 4.0, an automation and data exchange system in the manufacturing sector. Industry 4.0 is the fourth industrial revolution, a global phenomenon.

Total Control Pro Ltd offers scalable and affordable cloud production tracking system which puts production floor data at the fingertips of production managers, data that in conventional manufacturing could take days to collect and input to produce, as well as piles of paper to collect from the factory floor with challenging handwriting to decipher.

In pursuit of this commitment, Total Control Pro Ltd moved to a new office space in the University of Northampton Innovation centre in 2017. Dolores Sanders, Strategic Director at Total Control Pro Ltd, said: “We are very pleased to have moved to the University of Northampton Innovation Centre as it provides an excellent location with great environment to encourage and support entrepreneurs to grow. We are also thankful to the support from Knowledge Transfer Network and Innovate UK, who provided us with access to networking and partnerships to forward both knowledge and business relationships. We are happy to report that the company has experienced a 70 per cent growth in the last 12 months.”

The social impact of Total Control Pro is wide reaching and includes:

- Increasing employment by empowering workers on the shop floor by improving worker experience and providing efficiency and economic savings to all;
- Reduced top floor uncertainty and inefficiency from the workforce expands all employment opportunities;
- Bringing technology to a wider workforce demographic with the easy to use Cloud IT, brings familiarity and confidence in the use of the internet within their social environment and bridging the gap to technology;
- Reducing waste, energy and raw materials - manufacturers can be heavily dependent on the use of paper, with works orders being produced for every job. TotalControlPro™ reduced paper usage on the shop floor for an Essex-based company called GJB Developments, who are manufacturers of UPVC doors and windows, from in excess of 10,000 a week to zero. In addition, users can track wasted materials and resources through inefficiencies and errors in production.

Dolores explained: “Our technology has a contributing factor to our customers being able to maintain a profitable position, expand local employee base, improve total worker experience, and expand product offerings in the global market place, as well as delivering social innovation and impact.”

We work with new and existing partners to implement schemes and initiatives to help people become socially innovative and entrepreneurial.

Supporting people to set up and run businesses and social enterprises.

The Northamptonshire Growth Hub and Inspire2Enterprise deliver social impact through the assistance provided to clients and the deliverance of their own social outcomes. Inspire2Enterprise and Northamptonshire Growth Hub have supported a total of 2,040 clients in 2016-2017.
Inspire2Enterprise works with community interest companies, who by definition want to use their profits and assets for the benefit of the public. By helping to build confidence and security in the client's portfolio - which can be business plans, adjusting legal structures or finding suitable grants - Inspire2Enterprise allows them to progress with much less resistance. With the improvements in place, the client is able to achieve and deliver their intended social outcomes.

Northamptonshire Growth Hub works with new and existing businesses, assisting them in both coming to fruition and growth. By bringing these new businesses to market, there is stimulation for the local economy as new jobs and opportunities become available. As the number of small-medium enterprises increases, they make up a larger proportion of the local economy, localising businesses rather than being subsets of existing large businesses.

As a result of the work that Inspire2Enterprise has been doing with HMP Rye Hill, an independent community interest company (CIC) was set up at the end of 2016.

Case study:
Providing meaningful opportunities

Paul Smith, Inspire2Enterprise Business Adviser, worked with HMP Rye Hill to help them set up a business selling innovative bee hives. It is planned for the business to be self-funding by the end of 2017 and to be financially independent of the prison administration.

Paul explained: “Operating an enterprise in a prison environment presents a range of practical problems not normally experienced by other businesses. Although some 20 prisoners have been trained since the project started, several of these have since been moved to other establishments as part of their custody programme and so maintaining the necessary expertise to produce the Sun Hive, a hand-made product, is an on-going challenge. Similarly, moving raw materials into the prison and finished goods out requires additional attention to security arrangements.”

The business has several social purposes including:
- Engaging prisoners in an activity that is both meaningful and rewarding as part of their rehabilitation. Although the enterprise will trade and generate a surplus, it is not intended to become an industry within the prison. It will always be part of an overall support activity for the in-mates;
- Producing a product that is environmentally-friendly and is specifically for the preservation of the honey bees;
- Accumulating an economic surplus to support prisoners on their release. This will be channeled through the various prisoner resettlement organisations, most of which are charities or social enterprises.

The enterprise continues to benefit from on-going support from the three partners: G4S (Prison management), Garden Organic (charity) and the Natural Beekeeping Trust (charity) with external support from Public Health England and Inspire2Enterprise.

Inspire2Enterprise has helped a number of social enterprises to explore some of the key issues and challenges facing the organisations and provide appropriate solutions. Transitions London CIC is one such social enterprise that Inspire2Enterprise supported and continues to support.

Transitions London CIC.

Sheila Heard contacted Inspire2Enterprise to discuss whether to still continue trading the Transitions London Community Interest Company (CIC), which is a career counselling and employment placement service for refugee professionals.

Inspire2Enterprise Specialist Adviser, Andrew Cook, provided advice to Sheila about how to best organise and present a business plan and budget to potential corporate clients and funders. Andrew also advised Sheila about organisational structure and efficiency; partnerships and alliances; and specialising in engineering and payment terms.

Sheila said: “With on-going support from Inspire2Enterprise, Transitions is hitting targets, producing regular income by placing refugee candidates in skilled employment (80 to date) and has a more structured business model in place.”
Passionate about positive impact? Help us do more ‘good stuff’!

Our mission is simple: Transforming Lives and Inspiring Change. We know that we’re surrounded by people who are passionate about these very same aims. If you want to help us increase our impact even more, please give as generously as you can.

How to donate

If you are considering making a donation, thank you. Whatever the size or type of gift, you are contributing to the University’s commitment of transforming lives and inspiring change.

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Looking forward.

Being an Ashoka U Changemaker Campus, achieving the Social Enterprise Gold Mark, and gaining a gold standard in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), have provided us with even more opportunities to create social change and deliver positive impact for the betterment of Northampton, Northamptonshire and the wider world.

We will continue to focus on social innovation and impact and ensure that the projects and initiatives that we undertake deliver a positive impact in the community.

As we move more closely to the new Waterside Campus, we will ensure that we continue with the same principles of delivering social impact in the communities, at our new Campus.