

Civic University Agreement overviews – publishing list

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Aberdeen (University of)

Preparation of the civic agreement has commenced and is being taken forward in tandem with the development of a new institutional strategy for the University of Aberdeen, which covers the period 2020-2040. It is hoped that by linking the two activities we can engage stakeholders that are relevant to both the agreement and the institutional strategic plan, and connect the ethos underpinning the civic agreement with the strong regional focus in our strategic plan.

Our membership of and engagement with a variety of public and private entities in the north-east of Scotland will inform and enhance our approach in preparing our Civic University Agreement. We aim to deliver the Civic University Agreement within similar timescales to those of our new strategic development plan and to have the Agreement fully drafted by February 2020. It is preferable for the civic agreement to cover a substantial period to ensure that there is scope to both implement a clear strategy and produce some positive results, and we will therefore aim for at least a ten-year period, 2020-2030.

Aston University

We are aspiring to a collective agreement at a high level with the other Birmingham based HEIs. Each has a distinct mission so we feel this is achievable. We in parallel are finalising our internal strategy and delivery plan. The two elements should come together autumn 2019. We are keen to focus on where we can make a measurable difference to the region for example its business needs and health outcomes and not simply reproduce a list of things we already do within Birmingham. We are using the Civic Agreement as an opportunity to review what we do, and to scale up where we feel we can address an identified need.

Bradford University

The University is on a journey in terms of refreshing and redefining our approach to how we engage our local communities. The Civic Universities Commission report, signing up to the agreement and the appointment of a new Vice-Chancellor is timely as it has provided momentum and infrastructure around this area of strategic work. Our Vice-Chancellor is placing community engagement at the heart of all that we do and ensuring that our strategy aligns well to other facets of the University's work. We intend to take stock of our position by collating baseline information and using a consultative approach to build internal and external support. Whilst we want to be in a position to share with partners our agreement relatively quickly, we want to ensure that we focus on the most appropriate connecting themes that we can deliver an impact in. We therefore anticipate that the agreement will be in place by the end of the year. (Eleanor Clyde Evans)

Brunel University London

Our Civic Agreement will build on existing commitments enshrined within our Brunel Vision 2030 and our current Engagement Strategy. We will seek to consult widely within the institution and with appropriate local groups and representatives, including local government, within the community to ensure we capture both existing best practice and community need. We anticipate this process taking around six months to complete and using a range of techniques including, "town hall" style sessions, workshops and feedback sessions both within the University and community. Key to the success of any initiative will be an internal and external communications programme which will drive involvement and buy in.

Our Civic Agreement will initially be for a programme of three years in order to ensure activities are embedded within the University's planning and budgeting horizon. However it will be important to ensure

the Civic Agreement is flexible enough to enable the University to be responsive to local need and economic conditions.(William Leahy)

[Cardiff University](#)

We have a civic mission strategy spanning the period 2018-2023 which we consider to be a Civic University Agreement. This sets out our ambition in this area. <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/thewayforward/sub-strategies/civic-mission>.

Civic mission is a key part of the University's strategy sitting alongside Education, Research, Innovation and International. The strategy is supported by a civic mission operations group, which meets fortnightly and includes members from across the University, and a civic mission board chaired by the Vice-Chancellor which meets three or four times a year. (Kevin Leonard)

[Chichester \(University of\)](#)

We plan to utilise the approach to developing our civic agreement to further the delivery of our Community Engagement plan and key objectives of our strategic plan by further securing mutually impactful and sustainable partnerships. As a result, much of our academic provision will be more closely aligned to our area and stakeholders' economic, social, cultural and civic needs, as the only University in our county we aspire to become an anchor institution which supports the development of our civic partners to mutual benefit. We have started to have bilateral meetings with potential and existing stakeholders to identify areas of mutual interest, and secure a memorandum of understanding between the University and that stakeholder. We will then develop fora with organisations with similar interests to work together; this will lead to us being in a position to bring stakeholders together into a workshop to develop the themes for a civic agreement and mechanisms for finalising, agreeing and delivering on this.

This is an organic process which we have already started; we would hope to have a Civic agreement in place by December 2020, which would ideally be in place for 3 years.

[Coventry University](#)

Following the launch of Truly Civic in February 2019, Coventry University have committed to develop a civic university agreement – one of the report's key recommendations. The university already has a strong civic engagement including for example volunteering programmes, community based health initiatives and support for social enterprises in the city. As a first stage in formulating a long-term agreement Coventry University are finalising a framework that will support the delivery of immediate and identified priorities across the City of Coventry and enable the university to enhance its engagement with its local partners and communities.

The proposed civic-university framework highlights the following priorities:

- Supporting digital transformation within Coventry by investing in future-proof infrastructure and developing innovative applications that will embed technology in our day-to-day lives.
- A living campus providing a high-quality work-life experience, impacting positively on health and well-being and supporting local innovation and collaboration with business and the community
- Enhancing the safety, security and environment across the city centre campus through the delivery of flexible and bespoke solutions
- Supporting the delivery of sustainable and inclusive economic growth
- Partnering to deliver UK City of Culture 2021 and ensuring the delivery of its legacy strategy

The framework is proposed as a basis for establishing a more detailed formal agreement that will be informed by the delivery of current activities, community and partner consultation and understanding of future priorities. (Clive Winters)

[De Montfort University](#)

De Montfort University has an excellent track record of focusing its work for the public good to position the institution as the city's civic university through research, teaching and focussed student volunteering activities to meet the needs of the city in consultation with major stakeholders. Our plans are co-created with Leicester City Council, Leicestershire Police, the local NHS and our communities. Our civic agreement will further formalise our existing arrangements to support a strategy for 2019/20 academic year and will be in place before the new term begins. (Mark Charlton)

[Derby \(University of\)](#)

A working group comprising representatives from different areas across the institution (including the Union of Students) has been formed. The group is meeting monthly to ensure the development of the agreement moves forward at pace.

Our approach consists of three phases: Planning, Consultation & Analysis, Action Plan and Measuring Success. We are currently in Phase 1, understanding ourselves and our stakeholders, and have embarked on a consultation with external and internal stakeholders.

A survey has been created and is being distributed through our existing communications channels and networks, and a 'Derby Civic Forum' consultation event to encourage further engagement and face-to-face conversations recently took place. A series of mini roadshows are also planned, aimed at engaging with the harder to reach communities across our county.

One of our MBA students, who is embarking on a CSR project, has also come on board to offer additional support and will be using this live project as a case study.

Once we have a firmer grasp on the needs and priorities facing our city and county we intend to draw out key themes. From this, we will identify stakeholders we should look to co-create with, and, providing they are on-board, we will work with them to draft the action plan, and determine the best form of measuring and demonstrating long-term impact.

[Glasgow University](#)

We already have two Memoranda of Understanding in Place, one an agreement with all HE and FE Institutions in Glasgow with the City Council which encourages co-operation and mutual support and the second a more specific agreement with the Council and Scottish Enterprise (the national economic development agency) which was created to secure co-operation in the development of the Glasgow Riverside Innovation District. The next step for us is to develop a Civic University strand in our University strategy which will underpin and promote further agreements with civic partners.

[Keele University](#)

To date Keele University has put in place two civic agreements.

The first signed in January 2017 entitled the New Keele Deal (focussed around Economic Development) is in partnership with Stoke-on-Trent City Council; (ii) Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise

Partnership; (iii) Staffordshire County Council; (iv) Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council; (v) University Hospital of North Midlands.

The second agreement, signed in January 2019 is the Keele Deal Culture and the third deal, Keele Deal Health will be in place by the end of 2019 and will apply over the period 2020 to 2023.

The first Keele Deal focussed around economic development and local growth remains the civic agreement upon which the predominant level of resource is being focussed delivering up to £70m of investment to create circa £0.2bn of net additional gross value added for the sub-regional and regional economy via research, development and innovation activity.

[Kingston University](#)

The Civic University Agreement (CUA) will closely align with the key themes from our institutional strategy and harness our existing civic work streams with partners. We have a strong, collaborative relationship with the Royal Borough of Kingston and other key stakeholders in the borough and wider region and place high value on their opinions and input. We will prepare outline principles for and undertake a consultation exercise with these groups, staff, students and wider community ensuring the feedback is clearly evidenced in the development of the agreement. We would also seek to utilise existing activities such as the opening of our Town House building and wider consultation events such as the local plan and our own Estate Vision to seek input. We envisage having a CUA in place at a suitable point in 2020.

[Lancaster \(the University of\)](#)

The University of Lancaster plans to use the Civic Agreement as a formalised means of expressing and focussing intent between the University and its already close civic partners. We will develop well-defined partner clusters with the intention to revisit these relationships on a frequent basis to ensure they remain fit for purpose. (Dame Sue Black)

[Liverpool \(University of\)](#)

During the coming academic session we will work with our existing partners and key civic institutions including the city region combined authority, the city council, the Local Enterprise Partnership, the other city region HEIs, the health service, and major cultural institutions to attempt to align our strategic priorities around the key needs and opportunities facing our city region. We aim to produce an agreement which would run for three years. (Dinah Birch)

[London Metropolitan University \(LMU\)](#)

It will be tied into our new six-year strategy, representing a key part of one of our seven strategic areas - we're calling it Giving Back to our City. The strategy will launch from Oct so the agreement will follow, ideally after a consultative launch event with key city partners. A key component of our approach will be starting with the objectives of partners such as the police, NHS, schools, colleges and councils - and working back from there to set our own strategy.

[Newcastle University](#)

Newcastle University has recently launched its new Vision, with societal benefit at its heart.

The Newcastle Agreement will be built around new governance and planning arrangements with the City's key institutions, including Newcastle City Council and NHS Trust. We are undertaking a joint strategic needs assessment to inform priority actions which will form the basis of a joint programme with agreed

outcomes, led by a senior cross-organisational team and supported by a new shared Policy and Evidence Centre. The agreement will be developed in consultation with a wide group of stakeholders and will align local needs/opportunities to the University's research and education strengths. We hope it will be in place by May 2020. Progress will be reviewed publicly on an annual basis.

[Nottingham University](#)

The Universities for Nottingham (UfN) project was conceived as the precursor to the development and brokerage of (a single / suite of) 'Nottingham Agreement(s)'. With the Civic University Commission's recommendation to 'know thyself' in mind, the UfN initiative brings together the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University to:

- jointly undertake an economic, social and cultural impact assessment
- map areas of current collaboration
- identify and rank areas for future potential collaboration

Findings and recommendations are due in summer, with a formal launch / call to action for external stakeholders to engage from October onwards. The next phase will involve identifying and agreeing the grand challenges that a Nottingham Agreement would focus on over an initial 5-year time frame.

In parallel to the impact assessment and mapping work, a programme of pre-consultation with key external stakeholders is underway to introduce the initiative, set out our aspirations and test the water in terms of potential for collaboration.

Consideration is also being given to how both universities activate and engage our academic and student communities in this process, with ideas including city camp style sandpit exercises undertaken with civic stakeholders and student entrepreneurship competition to be explored.

[Plymouth University](#)

We plan to develop our civic agreement over the 19/20 academic year alongside our refreshed approach to Public Engagement and ongoing work on KEC and KEF. We see these as being linked in terms of understanding our place and our communities. We attract a sizable proportion of our students from the South West, helping us develop a strong link with our communities and leading to an inextricable link with our place. We will be developing a five year plan which will focus on building on existing good work in the civic mission space and developing a clear set of priorities for work with our partners and communities.

[Portsmouth University](#)

We have begun with a mix of staff and student focus groups (tied to our overall University Strategy development) on the topic of civic engagement. We also carried out an internal audit of the civic work in which we are already engaged, in order to better understand the baseline. We are now consulting multiple local stakeholders. Initially consultation will be through bilateral meetings. This will lead to a draft Civic Engagement Strategy that we will use as the basis for further staff, student and stakeholder consultation. We plan to have the Agreement in place by early 2020 and that it will cover the period to 2025, with regular reviews. (Dean Machin)

[Sheffield Hallam University \(SHU\)](#)

Our intention is to have a co-signed agreement in place by summer 2020. We have intentionally planned out this programme of work to ensure that we properly listen to our community to identify the needs and

priorities, and also to allow us the time to trial some new ways of working before we launch the agreement. The programme has been divided into the following stages:

- Research and scoping: to ensure we have clearly identified what we are doing, how and why, and to review learning from others.
- Engagement: to identify what role the University should play in the region, as well as where, how and why. This is sub-divided into: staff and student consultation, public perception, and external stakeholder engagement.
- Co-Creating: to consider, alongside external collaborators, the findings from the evidence gathering stage and to develop priorities, specify how they will be achieved, and identify measures of success.
- Developing: developing, alongside external collaborators, the agreement as well as trialling new initiatives to allow time to review the impact to help inform the direction and long-term objectives.
- Launch and Implementation: to launch the agreement by summer 2020 with a clear plan for delivery and monitoring.

[Solent University](#)

Solent University actively works with the local community in a variety of ways, including the development of courses aligned to the needs of industry, providing access to our resources and facilities and by actively volunteering. The University has been reviewing its approach to civic engagement since late 2018 and is in the process of developing a civic charter, outlining 3 priority areas that will be underpinned by a series of commitments.

The charter is being developed following a number of internal open house sessions allowing staff and students to feed in about their current community engagement activities and priorities. The areas are also aligned to the common social and environmental issues that are considered to be of importance locally.

Underpinning the priority areas will be a series of commitments which will be shaped by external and internal stakeholders. The three areas provide a common theme and narrative whilst the commitments set out our engagement priorities and aspirations.

We are now at a stage of speaking with external stakeholders to shape these commitments. This includes, but not limited to the local authority, community organisations, schools, residents and those who work in the city. We are also in the early stages of discussions with the University of Southampton about how we can collaborate on this.

We plan to have the new agreement in place for the start of the 2019/20 academic year, which will be launched alongside a staff volunteering and community engagement policy." ((Mike Toy)

[Staffordshire University](#)

Staffordshire University launched their Connected University Strategy in 2016, illustrating how 'connected communities' is central to our overarching university strategy (please see attached strategy image). Over the last 12 months we have developed a Connected Communities Framework. This framework, due to be officially launched in September 2019, is an articulation of our commitment to civic engagement and provides a strong basis on which to build our Civic Agreement. A newly created post, lead for Civic Engagement and Evaluation, is now leading on and coordinating this work reporting to the PVC

Partnerships and Region. To support our work on the Connected Communities Framework, to clearly understand our social impact as a university and to help develop a robust evaluation framework to measure our future civic impacts, we have commissioned a social and economic impact assessment which will be implemented in two phases. The first, up until September 2019 will map stakeholders, assess existing data and measure our impact to date. The second phase, from September 2019, will develop a plan to develop our Civic Agreement with civic partners. This will be implemented in 2020. We expect the Civic Agreement to be in place by September 2020. (Nicola Gratton)

[Sunderland \(University of\)](#)

The university has partnered with the city council and a privately owned trust to create a unique culture company - Sunderland Culture - to operate and develop the city's cultural assets - including the university-owned National Glass Centre and Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art. The culture company's first annual report has just been published and is attached:

<https://sunderlandculture.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/SunderlandCulture-Annual-Review.pdf>

The university is also the lead for a successful Arts Council England Creative People and Places programme - The Cultural Spring. Both projects are linked to student experience and employability. The university is a partner in the first wave of Culture City Compacts – an idea which came from the Cultural Cities enquiry. ACE/DCMS have made funding available for the list of pathfinder cities, which includes Sunderland. The university meanwhile continues to be represented at a senior level on the boards of the Sunderland Business Improvement District and the Business Group. We are signatories to Justine Greening's Social Mobility Pledge and founding members of the North East Culture Partnership.

[Warwick University](#)

Still early stages for us in preparing the Agreement. Our outline steps will include:

- Scoping and agreeing approach
- Engaging with strategic partners locally
- Engagement across the institution
- Harvesting evidence to assess local needs (much of this exists already)
- Joint 'civic' event/engagement opportunity
- Finalising and sign -off of Agreement
- Implementation Plan/Evaluation/Monitoring

We look to take a medium and long term approach to this, with a number of long term goals supplemented by a series of medium term milestones along our agreed direction of travel.

[University of Winchester](#)

The advent of Civic University Agreements (CUA) is timely. The University's Community Impact Strategy has the explicit vision to 'work together for a world in which all life and communities thrive sustainably' and we are already engaged in a two-year project to establish our approach to this vision via a community consultation, theory of change project and an internal review of our activity and impact measures. Our CUA approach will be a foundational output of this work when it completes in 2020 providing both a framework for future collaborative strategy with civic partners and our community, as well as for reflecting on our progress in addressing community priorities.

The University's new institutional strategy for the period to 2030 will place the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a central tenet of our purpose and work. Our CUA approach will flow directly from our strategic goals and adopt timescales in keeping with the milestones within it.

Given our genuine commitment to develop a CUA approach with our community, we are determined that our own aims and timescales are not the only driver, but the University has the ambition to agree a CUA approach that will be implemented over the period of our institutional strategy.

Wolverhampton (University of)

At the University of Wolverhampton we take our role as a civic university very seriously. It is central to our missions and is a key criterion in helping guide and inform our decision making.

With that in mind we have developed our internal and external approach to ensure that we can address the challenges of our 'place' and deliver our role as economic, social and cultural anchor to maximum effect and impact.

We have created a senior level cross organisational group to help direct approach and its role entails the mapping of civic work activity, identifying good practice as well as highlighting gaps in provision and addressing them through tailored provision. The group is also looking at the wider impact of what we and how that is best measured and evaluated. In time this approach will inform the refresh of our strategic plan and also how we further embed our role as a place maker and place shaper.

Importantly, our work and role is also shaped and informed by our external stakeholders and partners from across the communities within which we operate. These include local authorities, NHS trusts, Chambers of Commerce, the West Midlands Combined Authority, our constituent Local Enterprise Partnerships as well as schools and colleges across the patch. We also work closely with the private sector and a range of industry partners to ensure that, as a collective, we understand the needs of our place and from there develop sustainable plans and solutions.

Collaboration and partnership working is fundamental to our approach and we look forward to working with our partners to develop civic agreements that deliver positive impact for our place and its communities.

Examples of our approach to place and our civic role include:

- Springfield Campus (Wolverhampton) - <https://www.wlv.ac.uk/about-us/developing-our-campus/springfield-campus/>
- Nursing Provision (Telford) - <https://www.wlv.ac.uk/about-us/news-and-events/latest-news/2019/june-2019/university-develops-nursing-workforce-in-shropshire.php>
- Cyber Security (Hereford) - <https://www.wlv.ac.uk/about-us/news-and-events/latest-news/2019/may-2019/contractor-announced-to-build-9m-centre-to-fight-cyber-crime.php>
- Black Country Studies Centre (Dudley) - <https://www.wlv.ac.uk/about-us/news-and-events/latest-news/2018/november-2018/new-black-country-studies-centre-to-offer-enhanced-learning-opportunities.php>
- Centre for Sikh & Panjabi Studies - <https://www.wlv.ac.uk/about-us/news-and-events/latest-news/2018/march-2018/new-centre-for-sikh-and-panjabi-studies-launched-in-wolverhampton.php>