

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL COURT

Friday 2 December 2022

MINUTES

Sir Paul Nurse FRS (Chancellor)
(Hannah Quinn – Clerk)

Members

Category 1 – Elected Members

R Barry, R Bedi, U Brandenburg, T Brewer, C Burns, S Ellwood, A Franks, A Ganapathy, J Metcalfe, T Mitchell, M Partington, H Phillips, J Phillips, C Scowen, V Smith, S Sparks, G Stirrat, J Thompson, A Waterman-Pearson, L Wilson, M Young

Category 2 – Nominated Members

T Aditya, Z Banks Gross, X Bell, S Crew, H David, C Denyer, J Diamond, H Holland, D Marsh, R Maule, H Michallat, A Parekh, P Pipim Osei, A Raikes, S Raynes, C Reddington, G Richardson, S Savant, P Smith, S Wilson

Category 3 – Ex Officio

M Berry, P Nurse, A Sheng

Category 4 – Additional Members

A Farah, J Gill, K Gough, R Harris, L Holburn, R Leckie, K Libby, L Martin-Jones, M Mate-Kole, L McAllister Jones, S Rolt, J Royal, S Sayers, O Sweeney, H Williams, S Yelland

In Attendance

Senior Team

E Welch, E Fay, R Kerse, L Parr, J Squires, P Taylor.

Board of Trustees

J Boyer, K Bright, A Carr, I Craddock, R Day, H Gorst, J Khawaja, C Relton

Deans

M Powell, J Tavaré

Sabbatical Officers

N Antoine, I Russell, S Thambirajah

Elected individuals from UoB staff

G Brockington, J Church, L Clark, C Cowley, D Exon-Bartlett, R Harbour, T Khalid, R Logan, A Nansera, H Pearce, E Poletto-Lawson, B Shadwell, S Smart, N Smith, B Thomas, B Williamson

Facilitators

L Barling, J Davies, T Henderson, R Huffee, F Hyland, G Lambourne, D Law, J McWilliams, B Meller, K Miller, A Monk, J Nicholls, A O'Grady, A Paterson, R Scott, E Searle, D Smart, R Taffinder, P Tully, D Watson,

Support

H Cole, S Daniels, L Dineen, C Gully, B Harrold, A Hatcher, C Hickey, S Marshall, A Moody, T Riley, A Sahni, L Silvester

1. WELCOME

- 1.1 The Chancellor (Sir Paul Nurse) welcomed members of Court to the meeting, noting that it was the first in-person meeting for three years. He NOTED the arrangements for voting and confirmed there were no new conflicts of interest.

2. STRATEGIC POSITIONING OF THE THEME

- 2.1 The Vice-Chancellor (Professor Evelyn Welch) welcomed members to her first meeting of Court.
- 2.2 The following points were NOTED:
- 2.2.1 That Professor Welch had been in post since early September and that it was an honour to have been appointed. She introduced herself and thanked her predecessor, Hugh Brady, for his leadership.
 - 2.2.2 The extraordinary recent Research Excellence Framework results which judged Bristol as having 94% world leading research. Recent developments in research partnerships including the Perivoli Africa Research Centre, and the Quantum Technologies Innovation Centre, supported by the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) and the Pfizer Centre of Excellence.
 - 2.2.3 The launch of Bristol Innovations, a new platform to build on innovation strengths, facilitate new partnerships and bring jobs to Bristol.
 - 2.2.4 The remarkable and unique nature of the city, and its attraction for students and staff. The divided nature of the city when considering educational outcomes and progression rates by postcode.
 - 2.2.5 The opportunity for the city and the University to make a real difference to any kind of global problem.
 - 2.2.6 The need for open discussion of the complex history which had shaped our University and to be able to move forward with understanding but without being bound by our past. Whilst our history could not be changed, we can choose how we present it, and what informs that choice. The launch of a public consultation in relation to building naming, and the commitment to review the logo and crest.
 - 2.2.7 The development of our Vision and Strategy, and today's focus on the Global Civic strand. The desire to move from strategic intent to real delivery, with the support of Court. Whilst the Vice-Chancellor had not been present for the Strategy development, she commended the bold new Strategy which would guide our future, with the city and the University working together to deliver for all who come to our campuses, and many others who would never set foot there.
 - 2.2.8 A video in relation to the Strategy was presented to Court.
 - 2.2.9 The aim to be a University for Bristol, not just in Bristol and the opportunities to collaborate with the city in research through ground breaking projects such as Children of the 90s.
 - 2.2.10 The development of the micro campus at Barton Hill, partnerships with UWE, local schools, the NHS, charities and businesses which would support the city, for example the opening up of warm spaces at the Barton Hill micro-campus.
 - 2.2.11 The region's expertise in sectors such as aerospace and creative technologies, which has helped to secure funding for a range of high-profile projects such as MyWorld, working with partners such as the BBC, Aardman Animations and Bristol Old Vic.
 - 2.2.12 The Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus which was central to our strategic aspirations and a major part of local regeneration in that area. The Research Hub had opened this year, and the Dental School would move into a new space next year, providing free of charge treatment with 1,000 appointments available to the local community per week.
 - 2.2.13 The aim to double the number of undergraduate students we recruit from our region and plans for new flexible programmes and short courses.
 - 2.2.14 That the Strategy could be considered to be designed for someone who is now 11 or 12, potentially your child, or niece, or nephew, who has only known a politically divided, digital world. We have a responsibility for their future by

delivering research into social justice, by creating jobs and new opportunities and many more.

2.2.15 The Vice-Chancellor's intent to listen to the wider community and understand what you value. Members were invited to contact the Vice-Chancellor personally.

2.2.16 The Vice-Chancellor thanked Court members for their warm welcome and continued engagement.

3. KEYNOTE SPEAKERS & WORKSHOP: THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF THE GLOBAL CIVIC UNIVERSITY (CRT/22-23/001)

3.1 The Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Provost introduced the item. The following points were NOTED:

3.1.1 The establishment of a new Civic pillar as part of the Strategy and the support of Court at the 2019 meeting in designing this element of the Strategy.

3.1.2 The workshop would focus on how we could work together to implement the Strategy in partnership, to co-create a more equitable sustainable future locally, nationally and globally.

3.1.3 That the Global Civic theme aimed to articulate what it means to deeply rooted in our city and region but also globally civic through partnerships and networks across the world. It sought to address pressing global challenges in local contexts, sharing our solutions across the globe.

3.2 The Director of the Brigstowe Institute, Debbie Watson introduced herself and the workshop. Court members engaged in the Global Civic workshop.

4. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, INCLUDING CHANGES TO THE UNIVERSITY CHARTER, STATUTES AND ORDINANCES (CRT/22-23/002)

4.1 The Chair of the Board of Trustees addressed Court.

4.2 The following points were NOTED:

4.2.1 During the academic year 2021/22 the Board had undertaken two of its most critical activities to assure the future of the University, namely the appointment of Professor Welch as Vice-Chancellor, and the approval of the University Strategy.

4.2.2 The appointment of the Vice-Chancellor is a power reserved to the Board of Trustees, in consultation with Senate. The Chair had led the Board through a rigorous and successful selection process, which included consultation with almost 100 stakeholders, including a selection of Court members, a panel interview, presentation, stakeholder panels, and a media assessment. The Board held an additional meeting in mid-March and approved the unanimous recommendation of the Appointment Panel to appoint Professor Evelyn Welch as Vice-Chancellor. Professor Welch had performed outstandingly in all elements of the assessment and was particularly commended for her enthusiasm for the role, her alignment with our values, and commitment to making a difference to the community.

4.2.3 The Chair thanked Professor Judith Squires, who had served as Acting Vice-Chancellor from early July 2022 until the arrival of Professor Welch.

4.2.4 The Board focused on the development of the new University Strategy, from early stages, through to final approval. Since approval in November 2021, the Board has provided challenge and guidance on the development of the sub-strategies and the arrangements for governing the Strategy. The Board contributed to the development of Strategic Progress Indicators, which would be used to measure progress against the Strategy.

- 4.2.5 The Board had held the majority of meetings in person, visiting a variety of locations, including the Langford Campus and the Barton Hill Micro-campus.
 - 4.2.6 The Board took receipt of the Effectiveness Review report and have developed a challenging and exciting action plan to address the key points raised. The report provided confidence that our Board was effective and well run and provided opportunities to make further improvements including greater prioritisation of succession planning, a development programme for Trustees and opportunities for the Board to raise its profile within the University.
 - 4.2.7 The Chair thanked Trustees, who were stepping down - Kiran Sithamparapillai and Sarah Clarke, Madhu Bhabuta, Andy Poolman and Mohammed Saddiq.
 - 4.2.8 The Chair welcomed new Trustees Ruth Day, Harrison Gorst, Freddie Quek, and Ololade Adesanya.
 - 4.2.9 The Chair thanked all the members of University who were critical to its continued success and noted the collective endeavour of the whole University community.
 - 4.2.10 The Chair thanked members of Court for their valuable input into our strategy, their value and direction to the Board and the Executive.
- 4.3 NOTED that there had been no changes to the University Charter, Statutes and Ordinances that relate directly to Court, the Alumni Association, or the Students Union.
- 4.4 NOTED that the audited statement of accounts was presented at item 5, paper **CRT/22-23/003**
- 5. ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2021/22 (CRT/22-23/003)**
- 5.1 The Chief Operating Officer introduced the item.
- 5.2 The following points were NOTED:
- 5.2.1 That the University's position was healthy but not wealthy.
 - 5.2.2 The reported deficit reflected the 2020 valuation of the USS pension scheme and the University's share of repayments against that deficit. However, valuations could be volatile and indications were that the current funding position of USS had improved. It would be important for all parties to complete the next valuation as swiftly as possible and pass any benefits back to staff.
 - 5.2.3 Without the pension charges, the underlying surplus was comparable to the year before. The surplus was used to invest in the estate and digital infrastructure, the new Dental facility and investment in digital experience enhancement.
 - 5.2.4 The University had grown its total activities by 10%. Income from education and research increased in tandem and 460 new jobs were created.
- 6. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING 2021 (FOR APPROVAL) (CRT/22-23/004)**
- 6.1 The Chancellor introduced the item.
- 6.2 APPROVED the minutes of the December 2021 meeting.
- 6.3 NOTED the update from the December 2021 workshop.
- 7. REAPPOINTMENT OF THE PRO-CHANCELLORS (CRT/21-22/005)**
- 7.1 The Chancellor introduced the item.
- 7.2 APPROVED the re-appointments of:
- 7.2.1 Mr Alex Willmott-Sitwell as a Pro-Chancellor for a second three-year term from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025

7.2.2 Dr Andrew Sheng as a Pro-Chancellor for a second three-year term, from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025

7.3 NOTED that paragraph 13.2 of the University's Charter detailed the appointment process for the Pro Chancellors: The Pro-Chancellors shall be elected by Court on the nomination of the Board of Trustees and shall hold office for three-year terms, subject to a maximum of two such terms, unless Court determines otherwise by a resolution considered as a separate agenda item at a properly constituted meeting of Court and passed by a majority of those present and voting.

8. COURT STATUTES AND COMMUNICATIONS (CRT/21-22/006)

8.1 The Chancellor introduced the item.

8.2 RECOMMENDED to the Board of Trustees a review of the Statutes in relation to Court over the course of the next year with a view to bringing proposed changes via the Board of Trustees to Court for approval in December 2023. In summary, the review would look at better aligning the mechanisms of Court with its purpose, in order to support and improve member engagement.

9. OPEN FORUM QUESTION TIME

9.1 The Chancellor introduced the item and NOTED that answers to questions submitted in advance were published on the website.

9.2 The following questions were asked:

9.2.1 Clive Scowen asked how Court members would be engaged in the consultation on renaming. This information had been provided on the tables at the meeting, and would be circulated by email after the event. Almost 3,000 responses had been received to date.

9.2.2 Clive Scowen also asked whether community engagement by students would become the normal student experience at Bristol. The DVC & Provost confirmed that this how we operate and want to continue to do so. The Students Union contributed hundreds of thousands of volunteering hours annually, the University also arranged initiatives, employed students and engaged them as volunteers. The Bristol Futures curriculum identified citizenship as a specific attribute of the Bristol experience. Our Alumni networks also did great work providing mentoring, support and guidance.

9.2.3 Gordon Stirrat asked whether there had been any analysis of the changes to student mental health support, what has worked well and what else could be done. The Executive confirmed that there had been internal audit activity, and regular reviews reporting to the Board on the impact of changes and interventions.

9.2.4 Chris Burns questioned the pension contributions and provision in the accounts. The COO confirmed that this reflected our current contractual obligations, however it was likely that would change following the next valuation. Whilst there was volatility and uncertainty, the accounts accurately reflected our obligations.

9.2.5 Chris Burns also asked about the increase in staff numbers and whether this was mostly non-academic. The COO confirmed that it was a majority Professional Services staff, which represented investment into the NCC and student wellbeing. There had also been investment into apprenticeship schemes.

9.2.6 Carla Denyer asked whether the intended review of the Court Statutes intended to remove the opportunity for members to bring business. The Registrar confirmed that this was not the intention of the review.

- 9.2.7 Tom Aditya asked about the provision of adult education and language courses. The DVC & Provost confirmed that the Strategy aimed to increase provision for mature and local learners including new and more flexible programmes, with a more diverse student body. The University was working with other providers in the city to look at how we could extend our provision.
- 9.2.8 Martin Partington asked whether the University was being too modest about its achievements. The Vice-Chancellor confirmed that she was happy to be less modest and boast more. It was clear that Bristol absolutely punched above its weight, and we needed to remind people how great we are.
- 9.2.9 A Court member also asked about the aim to recruit 15% of students from the local population by 2030. The DVC & Provost confirmed that our commitment was to be working with the city to address inequalities. Current initiatives included co-sponsoring local schools and provision of mentoring. The University was looking at how we extend on those projects, through admissions policies and curriculum development and was working with the City to do this.
- 9.3.0 Vince Smith asked the Chair of the Board about the review of Court Statutes and the opportunity for Court members to contribute. The Chair confirmed that there would be consultation.
- 9.3.1 An anonymous question was posed through Slido in relation to Student Experience and answered outside of the meeting as follows – “Are you concerned about the below benchmark student experience as identified in NSS scores and what are you doing about it?”. The PVC Education confirmed that improving our NSS scores is a priority for the University and will be necessary to achieve the ambitions stated in our strategy. In common with the wider HE sector, Bristol saw a drop in our 20/21 NSS results, especially in relation to learning resources and assessment and feedback. The Bristol Institute for Learning and Teaching (BILT) and the Curriculum Enhancement Programme team are working closely with colleagues in quality assurance, and with programme teams to address weak areas on the NSS. Our new unit evaluation tool is helping us to give us insight into areas of strength and problems students identify. We have a programme of curriculum and assessment design workshops running with all schools and programmes in the next six months to ensure that our new Assessment Strategy is fully implemented to bring about a consistent student experience. We are also piloting new models of personal tutoring to strengthen academic support in large schools. Our programme-level and system wide changes are in train to bring about improvements in the NSS. Adapting to growth and more diverse student body requires new ways of teaching and learning which we are investing in to ensure all students get an excellent quality higher education experience. Factors outside our direct control are rolling industrial action which we are working to mitigate within the limits of the law.
- 9.3 The Chancellor closed the meeting, thanking Court for their engagement in this important forum and for the quality of the questions both in writing and at the meeting.



UPDATE FROM THE DECEMBER 2022 WORKSHOP

The Transformative Power of the Global Civic University: A 2023 update following 2022 workshop.

Court members contributed to the development of the 'The Transformative Power of the Global Civic University' pillar of the University's strategy at a previous Court workshop in 2019 and at Court in 2022, we ran a workshop on its implementation. The workshop was arranged by five global civic themes from the strategy:

1. Addressing the climate and ecological emergency and its impacts locally and globally
2. Making an active contribution to social justice, locally and globally
3. Supporting education in the city-region and helping to address the challenge of educational advantage
4. Co-creating innovative solutions that address health and wellbeing inequalities in the city-region and beyond
5. Actively contributing to the diverse cultural life of the city-region.

The outputs from the workshop have been extremely helpful as we begin to implement our ambitious new strategy. This report provides brief highlights and updates on progress made across the University in 2023.

Civic Engagement at the University of Bristol

- In June we signed a [Civic University Agreement](#) with the University of the West of England, City of Bristol College, Bristol City Council, and the City Office, working together to co-create a more equitable, sustainable, and prosperous future. This partnership **provides a strong foundation for each organisation to work more closely together** to deliver positive benefits to the city of Bristol including new jobs, apprenticeships, research collaborations and educational opportunities. A steering group is meeting regularly to shape progress on the aims in the Agreement.
- In November the University made its first entry to the [Times Higher Education Impact Rankings](#). The rankings give us an opportunity to **highlight how we're taking action to address sustainability and sustainable development** by measuring our progress against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The rankings will be published in June 2024.
- A new [For Bristol](#) section has been added to the University's website, **collating the opportunities to interact with the University** that are available to residents of Bristol and local enterprises, charities and communities. This includes how individuals and communities can use the University's facilities, attend events, take part in research and engage in lifelong learning, as well as how local charities and organisations can partner with us and find support. Local schools and young people can also find information about programmes, scholarships and workshops available to them.

Themed updates

Addressing the climate and ecological emergency

- The Cabot Institute for the Environment's Annual Lecture **engages local people with environmental research** as part of the Institute's [wide-ranging public engagement programme](#). This year's lecture, 'A just transition - leaving no one behind in the response to climate change', was attended by 450 people and contributed to the local debate on ensuring a just transition to a post-carbon economy.

- Local teenagers **stepped into the shoes of intergovernmental climate negotiators** this year with nearly 50 local state school pupils attending our [Mock COP](#) event. Each represented a key organisation or country in the negotiation and were supported by UoB student facilitators. Pupils also shared their ideas for local climate action, such as increasing recycling provisions and more educational provisions on climate change, which will be shared with local policy makers.



Students at the Mock COP event (credit: Jon Rowley)

"It's been amazing for the students to experience the wider role of the government, something they don't see day to day and the complexity of those bilateral relationships having to mediate with countries with different needs and wants. Gaining interpersonal skills and working with others...even during lunchtime they were talking about the real-life implications of their negotiation and talking about their own personal views despite being different from the roles they have been given. Realising that university staff and PhD students get involved in things like this, rather than just sitting in a lab or at a computer, has given them a window into the environmental and community work done at the University." (Hannah Pitman, teacher at North Bristol Post 16 Centre.)

- The [SDG Alliance](#) is an important network of local stakeholders who come together to **advocate for the use of the Sustainable Development Goals** in Bristol. The University co-hosted an event with the Mayor of Bristol in advance of [COP28 UAE](#). Attendees heard updates and views from city stakeholders regarding their plans leading up to and beyond COP28 and had the opportunity to feedback views for the UK government ahead of COP28.
- The [Bristol Advisory Committee on Climate Change](#) is an independent committee co-chaired by UoB's Dr Jo House (alongside UWE's Prof. Jim Longhurst). The Committee provides **expert advice on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the impacts of a changing climate**. In February they presented their [assessment of progress](#) against the One City Climate Strategy, with twelve recommendations which will be taken forward by the One City Environment Board.

Making an active contribution to social justice

- The Social Justice Network is a collaboration between the University of Bristol, University of the West of England and over 40 local community anchor organisations to tackle issues of social justice across the city-region. A focus this year has been on **harnessing the collective expertise of the network** to co-create a new collaborative, fundable research proposition to directly address issues of social justice in Bristol.

- University staff volunteered their time across the city as part of the re-launched [Days to make a difference](#). The scheme, which provides paid volunteering time for staff, included a particular call-out to **support the cost of living crisis via Bristol City Council's campaign**.
- We submitted a proposal for £4.8m for a [Social Mobility Innovation Partnership](#) in close collaboration with the University of the West of England, as well as community and policy partners including Black South West Network, Babbasa and Bristol Green Capital Partnership. The project **seeks to build cross-sector partnerships to address policy challenges that matter to local people and communities**. If funded it will generate insight and understanding into local challenges and opportunities and work with stakeholders to implement evidence-informed, actionable solutions that would in-turn drive policy-change.

Supporting education

- As part of **our commitment to local learners**, this year we introduced a [Guaranteed Offer](#) for all applicants with a BS postcode (and some BA/SN postcodes). Full registration data will be available for us to review later this academic year in order to assess uptake and impact.
- We signed a Memorandum of Understanding with City of Bristol College to support our partnership and ensure that City of Bristol College students are **supported to continue their studies and have a clear pathway to join the University** following their College courses.
- Our funded partnership with South Bristol Youth provides **bespoke support for young people in South Bristol**. Activities this year included tackling persistent absenteeism in five schools in Hartcliffe and Withywood, where 61% of participants saw positive improvements in attendance.
- School pupils across the Bristol region continue to **take part in our wide-ranging outreach programmes**, with new subject-specific programmes introduced to meet local need. We are piloting a Maths attainment raising initiative for Year 13s who plan to study a course requiring an A grade in Maths A Level but are currently achieving grade B/C. The pilot will be evaluated this year.
- The [Barton Hill micro-campus](#), hosted at Wellspring Settlement, **provides a unique opportunity for us to engage with communities in this area**. In response to requests from local residents our widening participation team are hosting drop in sessions to raise awareness of opportunities to study at UoB and the Little Library are hosting English for Speakers of Other Languages sessions alongside its weekly opening for residents to meet and borrow books. We are also supporting local science teacher Ilyass Amin (who trained at UoB), to co-design and host STEM 'curriculum enhancement' sessions for local secondary school pupils. Almost 90 pupils attend each week and new sessions delivered by University lecturers are planned.
- We have continued to expand our apprenticeship provision, with 58 apprenticeships created at the University. We also **support businesses to host their own apprenticeships via our levy share**, which has funded 66 further apprenticeships hosted at 40 local SMEs. We are working towards having in excess of 1% of our own workforce comprised of apprentices by 2025.



Pupils attending STEM Support Sessions at the University's Barton Hill micro-campus (credit: Ilyass Amin)

Addressing health and wellbeing inequalities

- The new Bristol Dental School opened on Avon Street in September. This new development will allow for **more integration of dental provision within local communities and new outreach events**. In October, a Community Fun Day event was held in St Paul's, bringing people together to learn more about dental care and shedding light on the disparities in healthcare access faced by the area. Further engagement with local communities is planned for this year.
- The University is a partner on [Bristol Health Partners Academic Health Science Centre](#) which works to **improve health and care in our region by tackling health inequalities**. This year, projects included: working with survivors of child sexual abuse [to improve their experiences of sexual health services](#); introducing a new clinic to help Somali women in Bristol [get support for bladder and bowel issues](#) and working with African and Caribbean heritage communities to [introduce new services to reduce HIV diagnosis and improve sexual health](#).
- The pioneering Children of the 90s programme brought academics and participants together in their [Discovery Day event](#). It gave an opportunity for local participants to stay up to date with the latest developments from the programme and to celebrate the collaboration. **Data from the study continues to make an impact around the world**, including feeding into COVID-19 government policy. *"We had a wonderful time and it's great to hear about some of the amazing research Children of the 90s data is supporting. We feel so incredibly proud to be part of the study and can't wait to see what the future holds for it."* (Laura Smart, Children of the 90s participant).



Founder of Children of the 90s, Professor Jean Golding OBE, with Children of the 90s participants (credit: Sam Frost Photography)

Contributing to the diverse cultural life of the city-region

- In October, [FUTURES Festival of Discovery](#) returned for its sixth year, **to shine a spotlight on our research through inspiring and entertaining events** hosted across the city. Our annual Up Late take-over of Brunel's SS Great Britain showcased research from every faculty through exhibits, workshops and storytelling and we provided community transport to neighbourhoods across Bristol to support families to attend.
- We continued to develop our [Public Art programme](#) within the Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus. Aardman director and designer Gav Strange created new characters [The Denticles](#) which were installed in the Bristol Dental School to provide a fun welcome to local families using the facilities. Further artworks will be installed as the Campus is built and **each commission includes engagement with local communities and partners** as part of the development process.
- [The Uncertain Space](#), our virtual university museum, **hosted its first virtual exhibition, co-curated with young Bristolians age 11-18**. The young people involved [chose objects from the University's collections to showcase](#) with a particular focus on activism and climate change.
- Local organisations worked with UoB Theatre students in [Community Engaged Learning projects](#). Organisations including Bristol Refugee Rights, Friends of Hillfields Library, and May Park Primary School provided creative briefs for workshops or theatre pieces to be delivered in their

communities. The projects **encourage students to become active and creative citizens** and gain insight into and respond to specific challenges facing local communities.

"I wanted to give my heartfelt thanks to the student team for the two wonderful sessions they delivered with my Silver Explorers (over 60s) group. The group thoroughly enjoyed themselves and have been talking about the session in subsequent weeks... The students were adaptable, approachable, friendly, and honest. The group really warmed to the students, and some really open conversations and friendly interactions happened... The students approached everything with respect and in an inquisitive and positive manner." (Sarah Rogers, Hillfields Library)