

Dear Kath,

I am responding to your letter of 12th March and your invitation to comment on the recommendations.

First, I would like to say that the University welcomes the study and was pleased to be engaged in the process.

As a general comment we feel it lacks a clear strategy for engagement with private sector landlords. We have no wish to alienate them but we feel the report needs greater clarity in terms of vision and the direction of engagement with them.

More specifically:

1) Rec.13 We do not have a dedicated Community Liaison Officer but we have trained individuals who can mediate and deal with any complaints or problems as they arise. We work closely with the University of Brighton to ensure we engage with students from our respective institutions. However, we accept that this is an area of activity that could be strengthened and is under review.

2) Rec.19- needs more detail. Off campus University owned or managed housing is not a problem but more thought needs to be given if broadening the strategy to the private sector. Again, it comes back to the role and responsibility of landlords and agents.

3) Rec.20- the University has a no car policy in student residences and as part of our Transport Plan we encourage use of public transport. We also have a very high percentage of cyclists, indeed one of the highest percentages in the sector. City transport strategy needs to focus on areas which are currently poorly served and could be improved to encourage dispersal of student housing.

4)Rec. 24- it should not be assumed that all developments are linked to expansion. Part of our strategy is to replace and update existing buildings which should not be related to commensurate increases in bed spaces.

5)Rec.26- does this need rewording? Is this saying that the Government should support the City Council in adding students in the City to the list of housing priorities?

6) Rec.37- in our experience we have not always been invited to LAT and Residents' Committee meetings. We are happy to be in attendance

The primary message is that we are more than willing to engage with the City Council and other partners on the issues raised in the report and in implementing the recommendations.

Please call if you have any queries.

Regards,

Charles

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