

Warwick University Statement

- The University of Warwick is a significant contributor to employment and the economy in South Warwickshire. As one of the world's top 100 universities it remains highly attractive to staff, students, and commercial partners. Despite its continued success and growth the University is ***not*** seeking to significantly expand the number of students resident in the Warwick District Council area.

The University has in fact made it a major strategic objective to invest in the creation of new accommodation on its campus in order to cater for any future student demand. Around £90 million pounds will be invested on new accommodation on campus and the first 270 new rooms in this plan will be ready for occupation in October this year (2017). A further scheme consisting of circa 700 beds on campus is ready to be submitted for planning approval and if approved would be due to become available over the period 2018 -2020.

- To ensure that we cater for anticipated demand for our 2017 intake, we are also reserving 477 additional rooms in already existing bespoke student accommodation in Coventry.
- The University also wishes to work with Warwick District Council and local residents in order to build and sustain a consistent community focused approach student housing in the District. However one challenge to that work is the fact that only a minority of properties housing students in the District are part of the University's own managed student accommodation service, Warwick Accommodation.
- The University will therefore shortly be embarking on an advertising campaign which will be directed specifically at private landlords in the District who operate ***already existing*** student HMO (Houses of Multiple Occupancy) to encourage them to become part of the University's managed student accommodation service, and we would very much welcome the District Council's support in encouraging already existing student HMO Private Landlords to join that scheme.
- The scheme gives more certainty and peace of mind to both landlords and local residents. Landlords have a guaranteed income with less worry about their properties and neighbours of those properties would welcome the fact that University will be more empowered to deal with any issues that may arise with the students tenants in those properties. We hope that many current private landlords of student HMO will see the advertising campaign and engage with the University possibly through our accommodation office in Leamington Spa.
- The University is committed to working collaboratively in a range of ways with the Council for the benefit of the communities, the landlords and the tenant students. We believe that through our actively managed accommodation service the University can exert greater influence on issues such as: nuisance and long term over-crowding. We also continue to support and fund the Street Marshall scheme in Leamington with the Council which aims to protect students and encourage more responsible student behaviour late at night.
- In addition to the above, the University remains happy to discuss any proposals that might help shape the future of student accommodation in the District and which would help reduce the impact on existing residential areas, especially South Leamington.