

University of Bath Vice Chancellor Recruitment Attributes

The Federation of Bath Residents' Associations (FoBRA) has been asked to suggest attributes to take into consideration in the recruitment of the next University of Bath (UoB) Vice Chancellor. Already an 'Initial Engagement Activity' has taken place, dated 16th Mar 18, from which the following relevant questions are drawn;

4. *What does it mean for the University of Bath to be successful over the next ten years?*

Others will provide words on the more conventional aspects, but FoBRA believes this category must include serious consideration of how and where the University's students are to be housed. At present, UoB houses about 18% of its students on campus. Across UK, this is one of the lowest proportions and, because Bath is a relatively small city, this results in one of the highest proportions of students to long term residents (25%) in the country; and this in a place where housing is famously costly. The consequences are loud complaints from students, citizens and the Local Authority, as the historical "affordable housing", for long term residents of modest means, is gobbled up.

5. *What are the most positive things about this University we should be seeking to preserve?*

No comments to add to those already made.

6. *What are the key things we should be seeking to change?*

See comments on (4) above. The proportion of students that the university houses has to rise significantly. By comparison, the University of Durham accommodates about 43%.

7. *What will be the greatest challenges for the next Vice-Chancellor?*

A glance at any copy of the local paper, the Bath Chronicle, will show that student housing is a subject of considerable tension between the University(ies) and the city's residents. This cannot be healthy and hence must change. Another is the very significant proportion of "lost Council Tax" – probably the greatest in UK – which the other 75% of citizens are forced to cover.

8. *What characteristics should we be seeking in the next Vice-Chancellor?*

Sensitivity to the problems outlined above, and resolve to correct them.