

A Long Term Estate Strategy in Higher Education

The University of Liverpool

Project summary:

A strategic, evidence based approach to developing a coherent long term Estate Strategy aligned with the University's overall vision and goals. An Estate Strategy, masterplan and phased investment programme underpinned by modelling and analysis of future activity, best practice research, evaluation of estate metrics and stakeholder consultation right across the University, with students and with external organisations.



Context:

Liverpool is a research-led Russell Group University with over 22,000 students, delivering educational programmes across a wide range of disciplines in humanities, social science, law and management, science and engineering, life sciences, medicine and veterinary science. It is a centre of international research with strong partnerships worldwide.

The University has recently published its strategy to 2026, to build on its success and ensure long term sustainability. It recognises that a coherent Estate Strategy is a key enabler, facilitating its development, reinforcing its commitment to enhancing student and staff experience and ensuring that improvements in the physical environment satisfy growing demand and deliver high quality spaces for research, teaching, learning and living.

Our approach:

Fusion worked with the University to develop a long term, education and research led Estate Strategy, to clarify capacity requirements, engage the entire organisation and define an overarching vision and masterplan.

Underpinned by modelling of future activity and demand, benchmarking of performance, best practice research and extensive consultation. It will facilitate delivery of the University's strategy, focusing on education, research and its impact and student and staff experience.

The Estate Strategy must clearly reflect and respond to evolving educational and research needs and support longer term sustainability in an increasingly competitive HE environment.

The Estate Strategy sets out longer term requirements and a coherent masterplan, grounded in an innovative vision for the University, supporting its goal to cement its place in the top 100 Universities worldwide.



The outcomes:

Fusion integrated with a large and diverse organisation, with academics, senior management and students to secure their inputs and build ownership. We delivered:

Clear consensus on the estate response to a wide range of requirements and overall strategic vision.

A sophisticated capacity model to quantify future needs and test growth scenarios as a basis for an investment programme and masterplan.

An innovative long term Estate Strategy led by, and responding to, future strategic requirements in teaching and research.

A coherent masterplan and phased investment programme, with explicit prioritisation criteria.

A transparent decision making framework to maximise investment value and sustainability and support the University's long term aspirations.

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