
Report to

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

2nd April, 2008

Report of

Councillor Foster, Cabinet Member (City Development)

Title

Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – University of Warwick Science Park and Associated Companies

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This reports sets out details of the work of University of Warwick Science Park over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Scrutiny Co-Ordination Committee recommends that the Council continues to make appointments to the Board of the Science Park in accordance with its constitution.
- 2.2 Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee notes the strategic review to be undertaken of the future of the Science Park.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 The University of Warwick Science Park provides property for knowledge and technology based businesses, whether they are, a business start up, a small to medium sized enterprise or an International company. In addition we provide assistance in start-up financing, technology transfer, networking opportunities and marketing programmes for entrepreneurs and small and medium sized enterprises (SME's).
- 3.2 The University of Warwick Science Park is a joint venture partnership between the City Council, the University of Warwick, Warwickshire County Council and the West Midlands Enterprise Board and was established in 1982.
- 3.3 The company's most recent annual report (2006) indicated that the number of companies on Science Park Sites was 140 with employment generated of 1833 employees. The main areas of recent activity have been in refurbishing Science Park properties, inward investment through a joint programme with Advantage West Midlands, business support activities for companies in the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Technology corridor, and leading on the feasibility of a Healthcare Technology Park for partners. The Company has also subjected itself to a number of corporate governance reviews (health and safety, internal audit, risk log, pensions reviews etc) during the course of the year.

- 3.4 The Science Park is a mature project on its current site and partners will be exploring the strategic direction that it wants the Science Park Company to take during the course of the current year to make the best use of the resources invested in the company for the development of the technology base in the region.
- 3.5 More information about the activities of the company can be obtained from its web site www.warwicksciencepark.co.uk.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

- 4.1 The City Council are the largest shareholder in the Company and required by its constitution to be present at Board and other meetings of the company. Through its attendance the Council representatives, play a role in the corporate decision making of the company. The Council appoints 2 directors to the Board, and these roles are currently performed by Councillor Kevin Foster and Councillor Andy Matchet.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

- 5.1 The City Council's representatives are Councillors Foster and Matchet. In the period February 2007 to January 2008 inclusive 2 meetings were held of which Councillor Foster attended 1 and Councillor Matchet attended both meetings.
- 5.2 There is no remuneration associated with the appointment.

List of background papers

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Description of paper	Location CH59
Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies	