
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

10th June, 2009

Report of
Councillor Ridley, Cabinet Member (City Development)

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – University of Warwick Science Park

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This reports sets out details of the work of University of Warwick Science Park and its associated companies 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 of the future of the Science Park is ongoing.

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 they 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. The associated companies are the University of Warwick Science Park Foundation, a charitable foundation with the same membership, the University of Warwick Science Park Business Innovation Centre, a property joint venture between the Council, the Science Park and the Chamber of Commerce and the University of Warwick Science Park Concepts Ltd, a wholly owned Science Park subsidiary to which the Council appoint a Director.
- 3.3 The company's most recent annual report (2007) 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 and business support activities for companies in the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Technology corridor. The Company has also subjected itself to a number of corporate governance reviews during the course of the year (Internal Audit and Risk Management).

- 3.4 The Science Park is a mature project on its current site and partners have been exploring the strategic direction that it wants the Science Park Company to take. It has undertaken scenario planning and engaged with AWM about the potential of a Science Park at Ansty. This work is ongoing and will shape shareholders views of the future of the company. The other major activities of the Board during the year has been to take forward proposals to merge the Science Park and University Business Support activities into one company with sufficient critical mass to operate at a multi regional level. In addition, it has explored with an existing major tenant how it maybe possible to retain their presence on site through a property redevelopment.
- 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 Gary Ridley and Councillor Gary Crookes. The constitution of the companies allows for an alternate to represent the Council if either of the representatives are unavailable so that the Board is quorate.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

- 5.1 The City Council's representatives are Councillors Ridley and Crookes. In the period April 2008 to March 2009 inclusive, 3 meetings were held of which Councillor Ridley attended 1 and Councillor Crookes attended 1 meeting. An alternate was appointed for the meeting that neither representative could attend.
- 5.2 There is no remuneration associated with the appointment.

List of background papers

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Papers open to Public Inspection

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Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies