
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

15th June 2011

Report of
Councillor Bigham

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – University of Warwick Science Park 2010/2011

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, so long as the Council has an ownership interest in the company.

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 Science Park is home to approximately 150 companies employing 2000 people across its four sites. The main areas of recent activity have been in refurbishing Science Park properties, retaining a major organisation at the Park at a point where its leases has come to an end, and continuing business support activities for companies in the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Technology corridor. Particular property activities include the replacement of air conditioning at the Science Park incubator on Binley Business Park, the refurbishment and re-letting of the 'Becta' Building, and the vacation of the 'Sun' building on

the main site. More information about the activities of the company can be obtained from its web site www.warwicksciencepark.co.uk.

3.4 The Science Park is a mature project on its current site and partners had been exploring options for the future of the company over the previous 2 years. Earlier this year, the Council and its partners agreed terms for the disposal of all their interests in the Company to the University of Warwick, and this is currently with solicitors for completion. David Rowe the Chief Executive of the Science Park from its inception, stood down in March to pursue private interests, and David Grindrod his deputy is currently acting in this capacity until further notice.

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 Linda Bigham and Councillor Tony Skipper. The constitution of the companies allows for an alternate to represent the Council if either of the representatives is unavailable so that the Board is quorate. Subject to the completion of the disposal of Council interests in the company, the Councils directors will resign their positions.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

5.1 The City Council's representatives are Councillors Bigham and Skipper. In the period April 2010 to March 2011 inclusive, 2 meetings were held of which Councillor Bigham attended both and Councillor Skipper, neither.

5.2 There is no remuneration associated with the appointment.

List of background papers

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Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper

Location CH59

Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies