



Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

17th April, 2013

Report of
Councillor Kelly

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – University of Warwick Science Park Foundation and University of Warwick Business Innovation Centre Ltd in 2012/13

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This reports sets out details of the work of University of Warwick Science Park Foundation and the University of Warwick Business Innovation Centre Ltd 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 Boards of the Foundation and the Innovation Centre in accordance with its Constitution, so long as the Council retains an interest in both companies

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 The City Council disposed of its company holdings, assets and other interests in the University of Warwick Science Park Ltd in February 2012 in accordance with the terms reported to Cabinet and Council in March 2011 and Directors of these interests resigned their posts on completion of the disposal. The Council retained a joint venture interest in the University of Warwick Business Innovation Centre Ltd, an off-site incubator at Binley Business Park and an interest in the Science Park Board Foundation, a charitable foundation established by the original parties to the Science Park. This report only deals with these two companies over the calendar year 2012.
- 3.2 Both organisations met twice during the year. The Foundation has agreed to disburse its resources in partnership with the University to widen participation in Higher Education and a programme has been set in place to identify projects that would support and benefit the Coventry and Warwickshire sub region. The Foundation has supported individual projects that aim to widen participation for Looked after Children, students with disabilities apprentices, and improve resilience in the teaching of maths. Interim reports and final evaluation reports are to be presented to the Foundation Board during the next 2 years.
- 3.3 The Innovation Centre reported a small operating profit but a loss overall on ordinary activities for a shorter accounting period (10 months ending 31/7/2012). The financial performance of the company is dependent on maintaining high occupancy levels at the centre and these have been impacted by the general economic environment and issues with heating and air conditioning at the centre, which have now been resolved. The

directors of the company are reviewing the options for the centre and its management during the course of the financial year.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

4.1 The City Council is a member of the Foundation and a shareholder and largest investor in the Innovation Centre 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 of the Foundation and these roles are currently performed by Councillor Lynnette Kelly and Councillor Tony Skipper, and one director to the Board of the Innovation Centre (BIC) Company, who is Councillor Kelly. 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.

The Foundation's funds are being utilised to support activities within Coventry and Warwickshire in proportion to our respective holdings.

No preference dividends for BIC have been paid to the Council. Debenture interest on the loan from the Council is payable annually, but in recent years elements of this have been deferred to enable to company to complete capital works necessary to ensure occupancy.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

5.1 The Foundation and Innovation Centre companies met twice in 2012 and the Councils representatives were present at both meetings.

5.2 There is no remuneration associated with the appointment.

List of background papers

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None

Papers open to Public Inspection
Statements of Accounts published at Companies House

Description of paper

Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies

Location CH59