



Cheshire Science Corridor Enterprise Zone Board Minutes of meeting held 22 November 2018

Meeting Title	Cheshire Science Corridor Enterprise Zone Board	
Date	22 November	
Time	13:00-15:00	
Location	Thornton Science Park	
Agenda Item		Action/Decision
1. Attendees and apologies		
<p>EZ Board Members: Robert Mee, Chair of EZ Board Cllr Paul Bates, Cheshire East Council Tony Bochenski, Independent Board Member Cllr Brian Clarke, Cheshire West & Chester Council Chris Farrow, Independent Board Member</p> <p>In Attendance: John Adlen, Cheshire and Warrington LEP Stephen Fitzsimons, Warrington & Co. Paul Vernon, Thornton Science Park John Willis, Skills & Growth Company</p> <p>Apologies: Cllr Rus Bowden, Warrington Borough Council Philip Cox, Cheshire & Warrington LEP Lisa Harris, Cheshire West & Chester Council Joel Tagg, Cities & Growth Unit Christine White, Astra Zeneca</p>		
2. Previous EZ Board minutes	All matters arising from the previous EZ Board held on 20 September 2018 have been actioned or will be covered in this board.	Minutes agreed and signed off
3. Declarations of interest	<p>(a) Cllr Paul Bates declared an interest on behalf of Cheshire East Council in Alderley Park</p> <p>(b) Stephen Fitzsimons declared an interest on behalf of Warrington Borough Council in Birchwood Park</p> <p>(c) Cllr Brian Clarke declared an interest on behalf of Cheshire West & Chester Council in sites in Ellesmere Port</p> <p>(d) Chris Farrow declared an interest in sites in Ellesmere Port as Chair of the Ellesmere Port Development Board</p>	
4. Thornton Science Park Update	Paul Vernon gave a presentation updating the EZ Board on progress to date at Thornton Science Park.	

5.	<p>Governance</p> <p>Robert Mee informed the Board that the LEP Board had approved delegated authority to the EZ Board to authorise projects up to a limit of £2.5m. Robert also explained that this formal delegated authority would mean that the current independent board members would be required to go through a formal appointment process.</p>	
6.	<p>EZ investment cases</p> <p>a) Quadrant Phase 2 (Birchwood Park)</p> <p>WBC Birchwood Park Trustee Limited is seeking an investment of between £2.7m and £4.93m to deliver a £15.2m project to develop five industrial units totalling 15,773 sq m (169,785 sq ft) at Birchwood Park, Warrington. The scheme could generate c.£436k per annum in retained business rates, providing a payback of between 5.3 and 11.3 years and potentially generating up to £9.1m in retained business rates over the lifetime of the EZ. The applicant is seeking grant funding on the basis of a gap in the overall financial viability without EZ support.</p>	<p>Approved in principle subject to clarifications and submission of a revised business case</p>
7.	<p>Operational update</p> <p>a) Growth Director's update</p> <p>The EZ Board considered and noted the Growth Director's report on key development activities undertaken during the last period.</p> <p>b) Business Rate Discount applications</p> <p>The following Business Rate Discount applications were ratified by the EZ Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Veramed Limited (Alderley Park) ▪ Manchester Biogel Limited (Alderley Park) 	
8.	<p>Marketing and communications</p> <p>The EZ Board considered and noted the Growth Director's report on marketing and promotional activities undertaken during the last period.</p>	
9.	<p>Finance update</p> <p>The EZ Board considered and noted the Growth Director's finance report, which updated Board members on the on the financial position of the Enterprise Zone (EZ), including retained business rate income, investments and funding.</p>	
10.	<p>AOB</p> <p>There being no other business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.</p>	