

---

## CHESHIRE SCIENCE CORRIDOR ENTERPRISE ZONE BOARD

### Minutes

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017, Thornton Science Park

#### 1. Attendees and Apologies

**Present:**

Robert Mee (Chair)  
Howard Hopwood (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Brian Clarke  
Cllr Russ Bowden

**In attendance:**

Philip Cox  
Jonathon Walsh  
Paul Vernon  
Louise Wood  
Andy Allen  
Jane Gaston  
Chris Farrow  
Steve Park  
John Willis  
Audrey Gaffney  
Katrina Michel  
Heather Standidge  
Caroline Baker  
Joel Tagg

**Apologies:**

Cllr Peter Groves  
John Adlen  
Tony Clark  
Andrew Round  
David Slater  
Chris Doherty  
Alison Knight  
Andy Evans  
Steve Richmond

## 2. Previous EZ Board Minutes

All matters arising from the previous EZ Board held on 26th January have been actioned or will be covered in this Board.

All agreed minutes for sign off.

## 3. Declarations of Interest

No member of the Board member declared any pecuniary interests.

## 4. Governance

No update.

## 5. Operational Overview

### 5a) Development and Investment Strategy

Cushman & Wakefield were commissioned to create a Development & Investment Strategy for the Cheshire Science Corridor Enterprise Zone that will include:

- An overarching Development & Investment Strategy for the EZ
- Site-specific Development Plans for individual EZ sites/groups of sites
- The development of a number of Business Cases for identified priority investments/interventions to unlock and/or accelerate development within the EZ.

Caroline Baker gave a presentation on progress to date on the overarching Development and Investment Strategy. A discussion was held around the emerging Cheshire Science Corridor vision and strategic objectives.

Heather Standidge provided an update on the six Enterprise Zone site specific Development plans and the emerging long list of 'actions' for potential investment. Actions have started to be prioritised around ability to meet objectives and reflect four key 'themes: of market confidence; development risk and viability; site infrastructure; and planning.

Actions for the EZ Board are as follows:

- CB to circulate presentation slides
- All to provide comments on the emerging Vision/Objectives by Weds 29th March
- Landowners to review and respond to Draft Development Plans by 29<sup>th</sup> March
- CB/HS to submit Draft documents to Growth Director by Fri 31<sup>st</sup> March

### **5b) Alderley Park Development Update**

Andy Allen presented an update on activity at Alderley Park where the proposition seeks to make best use of the legacy of AstraZeneca investment, supported by on-site amenities and environment, to maximise the opportunities.

### **5c) Thornton Science Park Update**

Paul Vernon provided an update on TSP and the new Energy Centre which will open on 1st April 2017. £6.8m of LGF has supported the refurbishment of 2,280 sq m of the total 4,500 sq m former Shell special projects lab which had been mothballed for 15 years.

### **5d) BRD Application Update**

2 new applications have been submitted since the last EZ Board but have yet to be assessed for eligibility:

- **Helukabel (Cloister Way, Ellesmere Port)** - manufacturer of cables designed specifically for clean rooms, labs, biomass, solar and wind turbines. Company clients include the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre, University of Sheffield, Daresbury Labs, Cranfield University and Siemens. Will occupy 18,514 sq ft new build as expansion to existing premises at Poole Hall Road, Ellesmere Port creating 6 new jobs and 100% uplift in turnover in 5 years.
- **Catapult Ventures (Alderley Park)** – management of a £30m life sciences fund which invests in innovative start-ups and early stage companies in the local life sciences sector.

## **6. Marketing and Communication**

### **6a) MIPIM Update**

Katrina Michel provided feedback on MIPIM which was deemed to have been a success. Both the Round Table discussion prior to MIPIM and the main panel discussion in particular generated significant coverage in the property press including Estates Gazette and Property Week. A partner 'wash-up' session and mail-shot will follow up. The EZ Board thanked KM for organising.

KM to issue Cheshire Prospectus  
Press releases to be added to EZ website

### **6b) Marketing Plan**

The EZ Marketing Plan is being updated by John Adlen and will feed into the final version of the Implementation Plan.

### **6c) Upcoming Events**

Warrington Property Review – Science Corridor has agreed to take a stand at the event on 7 April.

## **7. Finance**

### **7a) BEIS Energy Strategy Bid**

The LEP has been successful in securing £50k from BEIS for the development of a LEP Energy Strategy. A key focus of the Energy Strategy will be the Science Corridor and specifically the proposals for the Cheshire Energy hub around Protos, Thornton Science Park and Ellesmere Port. A brief will be produced to commission a consultancy team to support the development of the Energy Strategy. Commission must be completed 2017/18.

### **7b) DIT Account Management Bid**

The LEP has recently made a bid to DIT to provide dedicated account management to foreign owned companies in the Science Corridor over the next 2 years. If successful this would greatly enhance the existing account management provided by the existing local authority teams.

John Willis raised the significant investment into account resource made across Cheshire East to date. Agreed that we must ensure that any DIT investment does not duplicate existing work.

## **8. Any Other Business**

None to report.

**Next EZ Board – 2pm Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at Alderley Park**