

Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, Executive Director for Environment and Economy

Report to:	Economic Scrutiny Committee
Date:	29 November 2016
Subject:	Lincoln Science and Innovation Park

Summary:

Lincoln Science and Innovation Park (LSIP) was established in 2012 to provide a home for knowledge economy businesses in the Greater Lincolnshire area. It is designed to leverage the large investment made in research and development by the University of Lincoln to provide a mechanism to transfer innovation and skills to Lincolnshire's business community, which has historically performed poorly in competitiveness measures like investment in Research and Development and high-level skills.

Actions Required:

It is recommended that members:

1. Note the good progress of the current Lincoln Science and Innovation Park, especially concerning its build programme and its recruitment of students in the School of Pharmacy.
2. Continue to offer support to the Lincoln Science and Innovation Park specifically by;
 - promoting it as a destination for investment and by aligning the innovation schemes that the Council commissions with those of the Science and Innovation Park.
 - recognising that Lincoln Science and Innovation Park will have a further phase and being prepared to support that phase's progress by writing letters of support for any bid that is made for external funding.

1. Background

Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) has aligned its economic development strategy with the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership's (GLLEP) Strategic Economic Plan. One of the aims of the Strategic Economic Plan is to increase levels of innovation within the economy, both by promoting innovation to Lincolnshire businesses and by attracting new innovative businesses into the county. One of the main ways of attracting innovative companies is by locating

them with other innovators, close to a university. LCC has supported the Lincoln Science and Innovation Park project, through lobbying and supporting bids for grants rather than through a direct cash contribution, as it has developed. The Director of Lincoln Science and Innovation Park, Tom Blount, has been invited to the Economic Scrutiny Committee to update the Committee on progress and to discuss further support that could be offered by LCC.

Lincoln Science and Innovation Park (LSIP) was established in 2012 to provide a home for knowledge economy businesses in the Greater Lincolnshire area. It was predicated on the well-established basis that a successful innovation policy and, therefore, a vibrant economy, requires a spatial element to its strategy. Effective transfer of knowledge, skills and talent from universities to firms and effective collaboration between those firms for their own benefit and to the benefit of their supply chains requires the clustering together of all of those participants. Historically, such interaction only took place in a few small pockets in the county.

LSIP provides the special ingredient to Lincolnshire's innovation ecology on a greater scale than has previously been attempted in the county. It has developed a masterplan and business plan that provides a new campus in the centre of Lincoln (on the former Ruston Bucyrus site) that will combine world-class research facilities for the University of Lincoln with premium facilities for start-ups, SMEs and large firms focussed on research and development, innovation and the knowledge economy. It will do this through the development of suitable building stock as well as an active community of innovators, researchers, business people and investors.

LSIP is principally a joint venture between the University of Lincoln and Lincolnshire Co-operative, however, it has been developed with the close support of the local authorities. Lincolnshire County Council and the City of Lincoln Council contributed funding and staff resources to undertake the 2014 Masterplan. Furthermore, the Science Park has incorporated the pre-existing Think Tank Innovation Centre.

The LSIP campus is unapologetically focussed on good commercial outcomes for its tenants but has a wider brief to improve the performance of key Lincolnshire supply chains and therefore create and safeguard jobs across the GLLEP area. To that end, LSIP operates a gateway policy that ensures only the suitable businesses take space on the park.

Since 2012, LSIP has undertaken two major developments;

Joseph Banks Laboratory/Minster House (JBL/MH) – These £14m developments opened in September 2014 and provided 7,000m² of research laboratories and academic facilities focussed on life sciences, chemistry and pharmacy. Housing the principal research facilities of the University of Lincoln's College of Science, JBL/MH has been designed to provide equipment and expertise not previously available within the Lincolnshire area (as well as some world-class specialisms) and to create a flow of highly-skilled graduates in fields pertinent to important Lincolnshire sectors. JBL has been laid out more like a commercial than academic laboratory, therefore offers easy access to industry for contract research, consultancy services and other project based work.



Boole Technology Centre (BTC) – BTC will open on 1st February 2017 for commercial-industrial tenants. It is a £6.8m development adjacent to JBL that provides 22 units (each c. 90m²) within a university-quality building focussed on research and development, innovation and the knowledge economy. The development has been part funded by the GLLEP, the Lincolnshire Co-op and the University of Lincoln with a remit to provide previously difficult to access technology space in the county and to support businesses growing from five employees up to 25. The building has been designed to provide a level of infrastructure and customisation not available anywhere else in the county allowing units to be fitted out for high-end laboratories, world-class computing and premium offices. Features include data over fibre to each unit, natural gas and water to each unit, two levels of security to each unit, single and three phase power distribution, industrial grade floor and plant deck loadings as well as reception services, meeting rooms and other science park amenities.



The BTC is currently on budget (£6.8m) and two-months ahead of programme; practical completion will effectively be 24th December 2016 as opposed to 24th February 2017. This provides certain challenges, not least the need to bring occupancy forward. As the project is part GLLEP funded, it has a number of on-going commitments, such as a requirement to positively impact the innovation

community in the Greater Lincolnshire area both through supporting the development of its tenants and their supply chains and making investments into that community through support programmes. LSIP would, obviously, prefer to do this hand-in-hand with other state supported activities in the same area. It will naturally promote and access both the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Innovation Programme and the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub.

Current progress toward these goals include:-

- 4 current pre-lets are signed up (target 6 by February 2017 and 10 by August 2017);
- A pilot 'enhanced' innovation consultancy programme approved to offer additional support to certain businesses via Greenborough and the Lincolnshire Innovation Programme;
- A planned strategic development day for established technology businesses in April 2017.

LSIP was in part created due a need at the Lincolnshire Co-op to train more pharmacists locally and a desire at the University of Lincoln to concentrate to a greater extent on technical education and research. The School of Pharmacy that emerged from those parallel objectives has already seen 120 pharmacy students being placed in Co-op pharmacists. This echoes the success the Lincoln Engineering School has had in providing graduate trainees in Siemens. The next challenge for LSIP is to widen those commercial relationships to both a larger number of smaller firms and to extend the benefits across critical local supply chains.

2. Conclusion

LSIP has come a long way very quickly. In four years it has developed or redeveloped 10,000m² of high-end technical space but it is opening to industry for the first time in 2017. As a significant employment site in the City of Lincoln and a strategic development site for the wider Greater Lincolnshire area it can contribute significantly to economic development in the county. However, it currently lacks the reach and recognition that it requires to really start having a wider impact.

Amongst the strategic challenges faced by LSIP, this is the nearest and immediately most critical to making a success of the campus. Therefore, support is sought from the County Council through its existing economic development activities and newly launched programmes to help make this site a success and help create a home for technology business in Lincolnshire.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

4. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Thomas Blount, who can be contacted via email twblount@lincolnsiencepark.co.uk

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