

## **REPORT TO EXECUTIVE**

**Date of Meeting:**

**Report of: Chief Executive & Growth Director**

**Title: Exeter City Council – Shareholder Representative on Exeter Science Park**

### **Is this a Key Decision?**

\* One that affects finances over £1m or significantly affects two or more wards. If this is a key decision then the item must be on the appropriate forward plan of key decisions.

No.

### **Is this an Executive or Council Function?**

Executive.

#### **1 What is the report about?**

- 1.1 To seek approval for the Exeter City Council's Shareholder representative on the Exeter Science Park Company.

#### **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That David Hodgson be appointed as Exeter City Council's Shareholder representative for the Exeter Science Park Company.

#### **3 Reasons for the recommendation**

- 3.1 The Chief Finance Officer has stepped down as ECC nominated director of Exeter Science Park Company, and his knowledge of the company will be helpful to the continued success of the Company and in protecting the interests of the city council. The key link to the company is through the shareholders rep and in this role there is no potential conflict of interest for the Chief Finance Officer. The Chief Executive & Growth Director is currently the Shareholder rep for the Company and the proposed change will allow him to focus on the challenges facing the city council.

#### **4 What are the resource implications including non-financial resources**

- 4.1 None arising from this report.

#### **5 Section 151 Officer comments**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications contained in the report. The section 151 Officer can confirm that he is pleased to be nominated for the role and if approved, looks forward to continue working on this exciting project.

#### **6 What are the legal aspects?**

- 6.1 None identified.

#### **7 Monitoring Officer's comments**

- 7.1 The Chief Finance Officer's position as a Director and employee of a Shareholder had the potential to compromise him. As a result, he stepped down. Having said

that, Exeter City Council must retain a tangible fiscal control over the operation of the Science Park Company. As such the role of the Shareholder Representative has become more significant.

## 8 **Report details**

8.1 The City Council is a founder partner in the establishment of the Exeter Science Park Company and the councils interests are looked after through the Shareholder Representative. The City Council has investment in the Company as well as strategic objectives associated with building a strong knowledge economy and supporting innovation. Critical mass is building on the science park but it is still a challenging environment and the company continues to need support from the founding partners and the recommendation is to continue this support with the Chief Finance Officer.

## 9 **How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?**

9.1 The science park is a long standing strategic priority to shift our local economy to a knowledge economy supporting higher wages and developing local talent; and supporting the Exeter 2040 vision, a global driver supporting world leading research especially in the area of data analytics and the environment.

## 10 **What risks are there and how can they be reduced?**

10.1 None.

## 11 **What is the impact of the decision on equality and diversity; health and wellbeing; safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, community safety and the environment?**

11.1 None

## 12 **Are there any other options?**

12.1 A different officer or councillor could be appointed in this role.

**Karime Hassan**  
**Chief Executive & Growth Director.**

### Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

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