

EXETER SCIENCE PARK
Memorandum of Understanding Between Partners

We the undersigned will meet the expectations for this project, and our actions will enable its delivery to achieve the Vision which is:

“The establishment of a science park which is a key centre for scientific/technological excellence in the region that projects the scientific and business capability of the city and the sub-region.”

How will this be manifest?

It will be a centre of scientific and technological excellence in the region that:

- provides space or accommodation for new scientific based businesses, those growing on from incubation facilities and for indigenous businesses, and which is attractive to inward investment on site or in the sub-region;
- adheres to the operational principles of a Science Park and does not degrade to a Business Park
- facilitates joint ventures between partners and other organisations which generate new business(es) and employment;
- pursues the opportunity to identify and exploit emerging sectors as research and technology moves forward, providing a mechanism for continually extending the diversity of the local economic base;
- promotes opportunities for the retention and attraction of graduates, entrepreneurs and knowledge professionals;
- is commercially successful

It will be a centre, which projects the scientific and business capability, capacity and ambition of the city and the sub-region by:

- developing the brand/reputation of the City and the sub-region as the regional location for successful science based business development;
- providing a location which is an exemplar of quality external and internal design and landscaping, and which seeks to meet the highest viable environmental standards in sustainable development and operation;
- providing a seamless “hub” of support and expert advice to encourage business development and innovation on the park, and to help develop a network of satellite incubation/innovation facilities located in the sub-region and, if feasible, further afield.

The Partnership, comprising the undersigned, has the following role :-

- To ensure that the stakeholders' key aspirations are met.
- To act as the Programme Board for the Initiation of the Project.
- To work with the statutory authorities to assist in the preparation of planning guidance.

- To commission technical work to support the preparation of this planning guidance (paying regard to the wider sub-regional strategy) and the delivery of the project.
- To negotiate with Rok as the site owner an initial concept for the Science Park.
- To explore delivery/business models.
- To define the content, image and branding of the Science Park.

Operation

- It will be an informal grouping, but backed by a Memorandum of Understanding.
- It has no formal powers.
- It ceases life when a more permanent delivery body is agreed and established.
- It will produce a plan to be agreed and monitored against performance targets and budget.

Membership

University – Chair
 Met Office
 East Devon District Council
 Exeter City Council
 Devon County Council
 Regional Development Agency

To achieve this we will:

- deliver programmes of activity agreed by the Partnership, within the agreed budget and timescale and to the agreed standards of quality
- practice teamwork, trust, respect, fair dealing, effective communication and openness with all in the project
- collectively work to ensure that the skills and resources necessary to deliver the project are available
- practice continuous improvement with appropriate research, innovation and identification of best practices to support this
- define, manage and present the project responsibly with consideration for the environment, the local neighbourhood, and the health and safety of all
- obtain the necessary consents and approvals in a timely fashion to promote the progress of the project
- communicate these commitments throughout our own organisations and with stakeholders

- provide feedback on performance to all parties in the project team and others as applicable throughout the project and afterwards

Financial management

The University of Exeter will act as 'banker' for the project and will employ or manage the employment of any staff engaged on the project until such time as a separate entity takes the project forward.

The University's financial procedures and employment regulations will be followed to ensure appropriate audit trails.

The partnership will be entitled to see accounts for the project at any time with 5 days notice.

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