



Minutes of the Cheshire Science Corridor Enterprise Zone Board

January 2020

Meeting Title	Cheshire Science Corridor Enterprise Zone Board	
Date	23 January 2020	
Time	13:00-15:00	
Location	Alderley Park	
Agenda Item		Action/Decision
1. Attendees and apologies	<p>EZ Board Members: Peter Broxton, LEP Board Member and Vice Chair of the EZ Board Tony Bochenski, Independent Member Chris Farrow, Independent Member Annette McDonald, Independent Member</p> <p>In Attendance: John Adlen, Cheshire & Warrington LEP Philip Kerr, Cheshire East Council Stephen Fitzsimons, Warrington & Co. Steph Ramsden, Cheshire West & Chester Council</p> <p>Apologies: Robert Mee, Chair of EZ Board and LEP Board Member Cllr Russ Bowden, Warrington Borough Council Cllr Richard Beacham, Cheshire West & Chester Council Cllr Amanda Stott, Cheshire East Council</p>	
2. Previous EZ Board minutes	All matters arising from the previous EZ Board held on 12 September 2019 have either been actioned or will be covered in this board.	Minutes agreed and signed off
3. Declarations of interest	<p>a) Stephen Fitzsimons declared an interest on behalf of Warrington Borough Council in Birchwood Park</p> <p>b) Steph Ramsden declared an interest on behalf of Cheshire West & Chester Council in sites in Ellesmere Port</p> <p>c) Chris Farrow declared an interest in sites in Ellesmere Port as Chair of the Ellesmere Port Development Board</p>	

4.	<p>Alderley Park Update</p> <p>The Board were given a tour of the new Glasshouse facility at Alderley Park, which was the first investment made by the LEP in the EZ and updated on progress across the rest of the site.</p>	
5.	<p>Governance</p> <p>No items</p>	
6.	<p>EZ investment programme</p> <p>a) EZ investment programme update</p> <p>John Adlen updated the EZ Board on progress of the investment programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Glasshouse – will be officially launched on 13 February ▪ Aviator – internal fit out, including offices currently underway, due to complete February/March 2020 ▪ Helix Phase 2 – completed in October 2019 and is now fully let ▪ Newport Rhino – completed in November 2019 and occupier has moved in, final claim now due ▪ New Bridge Road Substation – substation completed and up and running, legal agreement has been finalised and the investment has been drawn down. ▪ Quadrant Phase 2 – due to complete in March 2020. 	
7.	<p>EZ investment cases</p> <p>a) Aviator Phase 2 (Hooton Park)</p> <p>The EZ Board considered an investment case from Redsun Developments Ltd for an investment of £1.024m to develop Phase 2 of the Aviator scheme at Hooton Park, which will comprise a 7,784 sqm (83,787 sq ft) industrial unit. The Board approved the investment, subject to the following conditions:</p> <p>(a) No legal agreement is entered into until the LEP has the funds in place via the EZ borrowing facility</p> <p>(b) Confirmation of Redsun’s financial standing and ability to fund/cashflow the scheme</p> <p>(c) Confirmation that the appointment of a contractor complies with public procurement rules where applicable</p> <p>(d) An updated State Aid opinion.</p> <p>b) Advanced Sustainable Developments (Protos)</p> <p>The EZ Board considered an investment case from Advanced Sustainable Developments (ASD) for an investment of £1m to deliver a £22m project to develop a 7,930 sq m (85,360 sq ft) specialist Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) recycling facility at Protos, Ellesmere Port. The Board noted its support for the project in principle but instructed the Executive Team to carry out further due diligence in terms of the financial aspects of the project and the design and build quality of the proposed building before bringing the project back to the EZ Board for further consideration.</p>	<p>Approved</p> <p>Decision deferred for due diligence to be undertaken</p>

7.	<p>Operational update</p> <p>a) Growth Director's update 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 The Board ratified the following Business Rate Discount applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BePlas (Helix Park) 	
8.	<p>Marketing and communications</p> <p>It was agreed to invite Catherine Walker, Director of Marketing & Communications to the EZ Board meeting in March to discuss the marketing of the EZ.</p>	
9.	<p>Finance update</p> <p>The EZ Board noted the Growth Director's update on the creation of a £30m borrowing facility from the three local authorities.</p>	
10.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Philip Kerr informed the Board that Cheshire East Council has received funding from BEIS for a pilot study to incentivise businesses to invest in energy efficiency to reduce business rates.</p> <p>There being no other business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.</p>	