

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 23rd September 2010

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Environment and Economy

SUBJECT: Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus (DSIC) - Joint Venture Partnership Board Nominees

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To appoint a nominee to DSIC Joint Venture Partnership Board.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) The Chief Executive represents the Borough Council at the DSIC Joint Venture Partnership Board**
- (2) The Chief Executive and the Portfolio Holder for the Physical Environment represent the Borough Council on the Public Sector Joint Venture Board**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 In June 2009 authority was given for the Chief Executive to take all necessary steps to establish a Joint Venture Partnership at Daresbury.
- 3.2 A Joint Venture Partner has now been chosen.
- 3.3 As part of the Operational arrangements for the new partnership, two boards have been established; A Joint Venture Board and a Public Sector Joint Venture Board.

The Joint Venture Board comprises three representatives from Langtree and one from each of the public sector partners, i.e. the North West Development Agency, Science and Technology Facilities Council and Halton Borough Council.

- 3.4 The Chief Executive has led the negotiations on behalf of the Borough Council leading to the establishment of the Joint Venture Partnership and it is suggested that he should now act as the Council's representative on the new board.

Regarding the Public Sector Joint Venture Board, this comprises two representatives from each of the three public sector partners. It is

suggested that the Chief Executive and the Portfolio Holder for Physical Environment now act as the Council's representatives on this board.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Daresbury SIC is one of two national science and innovation campuses, the other being Harwell.

The vision for the Daresbury Science & Innovation Campus is to create:

- Nearly 100 acres dedicated to Science & Technology. The largest such Campus in the North.
 - A growth location for world class Science & Technology businesses from SME to Multi-National Corporations.
- 4.2 However in order to realise this ambitious vision it required a commercial vehicle that has the necessary experience, expertise and resources (both financial and professional) to respond rapidly to market opportunities as and when they appear.
- 4.3 The DSIC investment partners (NWDA, Science & Technology Facilities Council (STFC) and Halton Borough Council (HBC)) agreed that procurement of a public/private Joint Venture partnership would be the logical route to secure development of the campus in accordance with the 30 year vision in the master-plan.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Without the establishment of the Joint Venture, Daresbury SIC would need to resort to piecemeal Development dependent on either government funding (if any more were likely to be available), potential interest from speculative developers acquiring land on a long-term lease basis or request from large blue-chips wanting to acquire land for corporate headquarter-type activity. All of these are very speculative in the current economic climate and more difficult to deliver. The natural result is that the momentum of the Campus growth will slow and potentially stall, and Government and other organisations may take the view that Harwell SIC is the more appropriate place to invest.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

A key priority for the Council is to equip our young people with employable skills, which in turn are a key determinant of an individuals life and employment chances. Daresbury SIC presents an opportunity to enable these skills to be realised, particularly in the science, technology and advance manufacturing sectors.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The report recognises the role Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus is playing in attracting major businesses to the Borough, thereby improving the Borough's overall employment offer.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

No direct implications

6.4 A Safer Halton

No direct implications.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Again, Daresbury SIC is contributing to the diversification of Halton's business base and commercial premises portfolio; it is a site that combines high science, research and development and innovation with business opportunity.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 As mentioned, the current round of significant cuts in public funding and the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review by the government is likely to further reduce the amount of public spending and, therefore, could impact on the speed at which development of the Science and Innovation Campus takes place.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 As part of the tendering process for the joint venture agreement, bidders were required to demonstrate how their proposals would engage with the wider community and contribute to ensuring equality of access for all to the new and emerging opportunities arising from the investment on the campus.

**9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus Framework	Floor 5 Municipal Building	Wesley Rourke 0151 471 7526 Ext 1150