

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**PUBLIC REPORT**

Report to:	CABINET
Report of:	Strategic Director- Finance and Legal
Date of Decision:	14th February 2017
SUBJECT:	INNOVATION BIRMINGHAM LIMITED SITE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION
Key Decision: Yes	Relevant Forward Plan Ref: 001780/2016
If not in the Forward Plan: (please "X" box)	Chief Executive approved <input type="checkbox"/> N/A O&S Chairman approved <input type="checkbox"/>
Relevant Cabinet Member(s) or Relevant Executive Member for Local Services:	Leader
Relevant O&S Chairman:	Cllr Mohammed Aikhlaq- Corporate Resources and Governance
Wards affected:	Nechells

1. Purpose of report:
1.1 To outline strategic initiatives in relation to Innovation Birmingham Ltd (IBL) Group. The exempt matters for consideration are contained in the accompanying report on the private agenda

2. Decision(s) recommended:
That Cabinet: 2.1 notes the report

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3.	Consultation
	Consultation should include those that have an interest in the decisions recommended
3.1	<p><u>Internal</u></p> <p>Officers from Planning and Regeneration, Birmingham Property Services, Procurement, Finance and legal have been involved in the preparation of this report</p>
3.2	<p><u>External</u></p> <p>Cllr John Clancy, Cllr Lisa Trickett and Cllr Timothy Huxtable who are nominated by the City Council to the Board of IBL have been sent a copy of this report and they support the proposal</p> <p>The Chief Executive of IBL has been fully involved in the preparation of this report</p>
4.	Compliance Issues:
4.1	<p><u>Are the recommended decisions consistent with the Council's policies, plans and strategies?</u></p> <p>The proposals in this report support the delivery of attracting investment into the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) area. This contributes to the Council Business Plan and Budget 2016+ priority of a strong economy.</p>
4.2	<p><u>Financial Implications</u></p> <p>The financial implications are set out in the accompanying private report</p>
4.3	<p><u>Legal Implications</u></p> <p>Investment in economic development at the Science Park is made pursuant to the general power of competence contained in S1 Localism Act 2011. S123 of the Local Government Act 1972 obliges the Council to dispose of land for the best price reasonably obtainable. Section 111 Local Government Act 1972 allows the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its functions</p>
4.4	<p><u>Public Sector Equality Duty</u></p> <p>An initial Equality Assessment (Ref EA001847) has been undertaken and is attached at Appendix 1. There are no adverse implications identified from the recommendations in this report and a second stage EA is not required</p>

5.	Relevant background/chronology of key events:
5.1	The IBL Group which is wholly owned by the City Council operates the Innovation Birmingham Campus, part of 14 acre Birmingham Science Park Aston site adjacent to Aston University. Since its creation in 1982 it has assisted the growth of over 600 businesses and helped to shape, support and develop Birmingham's innovation agenda as a home for entrepreneurs, early stage companies, university spin outs and more mature businesses aligned to the knowledge economy and technology industry.
5.2	The Innovation Birmingham Campus currently comprises Faraday Wharf, iCentrum and Universities Centre. Faraday Wharf which opened in 2001 is an Innovation Centre for start-up and early stage digital technology businesses. iCentrum and Universities Centre both opened in 2016 providing flexible office space for innovative digital businesses and a collaborative workspace and training environment aimed at reducing barriers to effective collaboration between early stage micro enterprises/small businesses and Birmingham's five universities.
5.3	The land from which IBL operates is owned directly by the City Council, but the physical assets are owned directly by IBL
5.4	The City Council has built up the IBL Group to a position of strategic importance to the City and the Region. There are currently over 150 businesses on the Campus, most employing 1-5 people, but several now employ 20-30 so that over 1,100 people are now engaged on the site
5.5	There is potential for further significant growth on the site, with around 90,000sq. ft remaining to be developed. As part of the process to consider the growth options for IBL, the Board has produced and endorsed a Master Plan setting out the basis for the continued physical development of the site
5.6	To enable IBL Group to enter the next stage of strategic development, the accompanying private report sets out options in relation to the City Council's ownership of the IBL Group

6.	Evaluation of alternative option(s):
6.1	The evaluation of options is set out in the accompanying private report

7.	Reasons for Decision(s):
7.1	To inform Members of the current position regarding strategic initiatives in relation to the IBL Group

Signatures	<u>Date</u>
Cabinet Member
Chief Officer

List of Background Documents used to compile this Report:
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None

List of Appendices accompanying this Report (if any):
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Appendix 1 Equality Analysis

Report Version	<u>4</u>	Dated	<u>31 January 2017</u>
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