

Shareholder Committee for Dorset Innovation Park Ltd

3 November 2025

Shareholder Agreement between Dorset Council and Dorset Innovation Park Ltd

For Review and Consultation

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Report Status: Part Exempt (Appendix 1 – Exempt para 3)

Brief Summary:

This report presents the Shareholder Agreement between Dorset Council and Dorset Innovation Park Ltd for confirmation by the Shareholder Committee.

Recommendation:

Shareholders are recommended to note and confirm the proposed Shareholder Agreement.

Reason for Recommendation:

1. Report

- 1.1 The Council owns and manages Dorset Innovation Park, a large industrial estate with Enterprise Zone status near Wool. A Cabinet decision taken in November 2024 reviewed potential management options and agreed the formation of an arm's length company as the preferred management arrangement for the Innovation Park.
- 1.2 In March 2025 Cabinet approved the formation of a wholly owned but independent Dorset Council trading company limited by shares. The Council has a 100% shareholding in the company, which was incorporated at Companies House on 13 June 2025.

- 1.3 As part of the agreed governance framework covering the relationship between Dorset Council and Dorset Innovation Park Ltd (the Company) a Shareholder Agreement is required to be agreed by both parties.
- 1.4 A Shareholder Agreement is a legally binding contract between a company's shareholder (Dorset Council) and the company. It defines their rights, obligations and the management and governance of the company.
- 1.5 The draft Shareholder Agreement is presented as an exempt appendix to this report for confirmation by the committee. It was drafted with support from Dorset Council's Legal Services Team and incorporates initial comments from Dorset Innovation Park Ltd.
- 1.6 This report is presented on behalf of Dorset Innovation Park Ltd and requests the Shareholders note and confirm the Shareholder Agreement.
- 1.7 The March 2025 Cabinet Decision agreed delegation of authority to the Executive Director Place in consultation with the Director Legal and Democratic, Executive Director Corporate Development and the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Assets, Property and Economic Growth to approve the detailed implementation plans for the Company including the Shareholder Agreement on behalf of Dorset Council.

2. **Financial Implications**

- 2.1 A projected Financial Model for Dorset Innovation Park Ltd was presented to Cabinet on 25 March 2025. This decision has no direct financial implication.

3. **Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Implications**

- 3.1 N/A

4. **Well-being and Health Implications**

- 4.1 N/A

5. **Other Implications**

- 5.1 None at this stage.

6. **Risk Assessment**

N/A

7. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

N/A

8. **Appendices**

Shareholder Agreement between Dorset Council and Dorset Innovation Park Ltd. – Exempt (Paragraph 3)

9. **Background Papers**

[Cabinet Report 25 March 2025 - Dorset Innovation Park – Arm's Length Management Company Final.pdf](#)