SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE FOR DORSET INNOVATION PARK LTD

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 23 MARCH 2026

Present: Cllrs Nick Ireland (Chair), Richard Biggs (Vice-Chair), Simon Clifford and Ben Wilson

Apologies: Cllrs Shane Bartlett

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):
Nick Webster (Head of Growth and Regeneration), Grace Evans (Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer) and Lindsey Watson (Senior Democratic and Governance Officer)

38. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

39. **Public Participation**

There were no questions or statements from members of the public or local organisations.

40. **Councillor Questions**

There were no questions from councillors.

41. **Dorset Innovation Park Board Composition**

The shareholder committee received and considered a report of the Head of Growth and Regeneration which provided an update on the Dorset Innovation Park Ltd Board composition and included a recommendation for the formal ratification of the Company Chair and appointment of a Non-Executive Director.

It was proposed by S Clifford seconded by N Ireland

Decision

That the Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Innovation Park Ltd:

1. Formally ratify the choice of Cecilia Bufton as the Dorset Innovation Park Ltd Chair for an initial period of 12 months

2. Approve the re-appointment of Mark Ovens as a Non-Executive Director of Dorset Innovation Park Ltd.

Reason for the decision

Dorset Innovation Park Ltd (the Company) has been established as an “arms length” company of Dorset Council to take on the management and operation of the Dorset Innovation Park (DIP). An external Board of Directors has been appointed to oversee the management of the Company. In February 2026 the Chair of the Company resigned their position and the Shareholder approved the commencement of an appointment process for a new Chair. That process has secured Cecilia Bufton as the new Chair of the Company and this appointment has been confirmed by the Leader of the Council. The Shareholder Committee is now asked to formally ratify this decision.

In addition, the Company Managing Director has requested that the Shareholder consider the reappointment of Mark Ovens to the Company Board as a Non-Executive Director.

42. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

43. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 3.03 - 3.07 pm

Chair

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