

Shareholder Committee for Dorset Innovation Park Ltd

13 April 2026

Dorset Innovation Park Ltd Managing Director Update For Review and Consultation

Report Author: Kevin Forshaw
Title: Dorset Innovation Park Managing Director

Report Status: Part Exempt Para 3

Brief Summary:

This report provides an update on the current situation at the Dorset Innovation Park Ltd (“the Company”) and an update from the 4th February Shareholder Committee.

1. Report

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the current position in relation to the work to date by the Company to establish both itself as an operational entity and on delivering the ambitions of the Shareholder for the Innovation Park. It also provides an update on key deliverable cited in the company Business Plan presented and approved at the 4th February Shareholder Committee.
- 1.2 **Park Improvements** – extensive work is underway to streamline the process to accelerate the delivery of key works outlined in the Business Plan. These include; updating the proposed design for replacement gatehouse, demolition of redundant brick switching house and further plot development works. Finalised costing to be provided at later Shareholder Committee Meeting.
- 1.3 **Further and Higher Education engagements** – DIP Ltd has been supporting funding applications including the Defence Technical Excellence College application by Yeovil, and Bournemouth University’s application for Defence-Related Skills funding which if funded, would be a

satellite presence of the Secure Operation Centre of the Future being located at the Park. The Council and DIP Ltd jointly supported the Plymouth City Council led Local Innovation Partnerships Fund application, that if supported could see the creation of 'Maker Space' created. DIP Ltd are also working with the National Oceanography Centre in Southampton on a joint application for Innovate UK funding to support a national robotics hub.

- 1.4 **BattleLab developments** – ShoreLine Services are now occupying an area on the first floor of BattleLab generating income, and early indications are that a vibrant events programme will take place in the Conference Facility this year generating at least £20k income. Further options for income generation are being considered towards intent of reducing the annual loss on this building by 50%.
- 1.5 **Company Secretarial Support** – DIP Ltd has commissioned Womble Bond Dickinson to provide Company Secretarial support for the company, and separately an engagement letter has been signed for provision of legal services as and where needed.
- 1.6 **Skills Summit** - Following the Tenants Forum meeting in February, DIP Ltd intend to arrange a Skills Summit with key employers on the Park. This to bring together a range of University and College providers to work through what sort of facility could be created for skills delivery on site following the success of the skills centre created at the Daedalus Park by Fareham Borough Council. Any skills summit around May or June this year will be co-created and jointly delivered with Dorset Council.
- 1.7 **Recruitment Updates** - Louise Leat (Asset and Facility Manager) will officially start at the beginning of June, but will engage in some project type work from April. This with an initial focus on the development of a Robust Financial Model and current Estate Agent relationships, particularly with respect to generation of national and international interest. Emily Ward, initially contracted from Connect2Dorset has also now been made permanent as Office and Operations Manager for the Company.
- 1.8 **Transition Meetings** - A series of transition meetings have been created focussing on key themes around Governance, Site Management and Capital Improvements, Major Development Projects, Developmental Trajectory and Agreed KPIs. These engaging core Team from the Council and DIP Ltd occurring every two weeks working through agreed priority areas to ensure that the company have all systems, governance

and document repository in place before taking over operation of the Park around June this year.

- 1.9 **Regional Testing and Evaluation Capability** – DIP Ltd and Dorset Council are collaborating on the development of new DIP web pages to effectively promote the depth and breadth of testing and evaluation capability in region to drive industry investment into the region. This is vital as potentially the Park and wider region are one of only three areas in the UK where multi-domain testing and evaluation of uncrewed systems is possible acting as a magnet for companies seeking to expand in the growing Defence and Security market. Following feedback on initial web page development, we are hoping to get these finalised and published by end of May. In tandem DIP Ltd is exploring conversations with a number of organisations including 'Open Skies Network' for the development of a turn-key process to allow companies to easily access facilities that complies with all current regulatory requirements.

2. **Alternative Options Considered**

- 2.1 Not applicable

3. **Legal Implications**

- 3.1 No decisions are requested from this report, consequently there are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

4. **Implications**

- 4.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

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

- 5.1 There are no specific environmental implications arising from this report.

6. Well-Being and Health Implications

6.1 N/A

7. Other Implications

7.1 There are no other implications arising from this report.

8. Risk Assessment

8.1 There are no specific risk implications arising from this report.

9. Equalities Impact Assessment

9.1 No decisions are requested from this report. As such, an Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

N/A

10. Appendices

Appendix 1 – reserved matters – Exempt document (Para 3)

11. Background Papers

N/A