

Planning Policy

From: jeremy.gardiner
Sent: 14 September 2018 15:58
To: Planning Policy
Cc: Peter Birkett; trevor.moody
Subject: Local Plan Issues and Options consultation - representations on behalf of the University of Southampton Science Park

Dear Sir or Madam,

I write on behalf of the University of Southampton Science Park (hereafter USSP) to provide comments on the Local Plan Issues and Options consultation.

As noted in your adopted Local Plan Review 2011-2029, USSP is one of the country's premier science parks. Your Issues and Options consultation notes that the borough has both a higher proportion of workers in higher category occupations, and a higher proportion of highly qualified residents, than the national average, and USSP will have made important contributions to these statistics. USSP continues to see the development of both new research & development floorspace and new support facilities to further strengthen its position in the market – as witnessed by the current construction of a headquarters building for Promega UK on Benham Campus, and the recently completed refurbishment of a building on Venture Road to provide a conference centre and a modernised R&D unit. It is anticipated that USSP will continue to develop in the forthcoming Local Plan review period, both through the development or redevelopment of land within USSP or through facilitating additional development through modest amendments to USSP's designated policy area. It is not possible to anticipate all developments which may come forward in the plan period, but schemes which may come forward in the next ten years include:

- The completion of the development of Benham Campus;
- The development of the allocated site South of Benham Campus;
- The redevelopment of the Engineering Building on University Parkway (this was the subject of a previous planning permission which has lapsed), and;
- The redevelopment of the Woodlands site, which is accessed from University Parkway but currently lies adjacent to but outside the designated USSP policy area allocated under adopted Policy LE1.

USSP seeks a planning policy context which continues to be supportive of the Science Park's further development and evolution.

In response to specific questions posed in the Issues and Options consultation:

Q26 Should we allocate more land to give more choice and flexibility to the market? The allocation of the Woodlands site for the development of a single R&D building in a wooded setting would add to the choice of land available in the borough for R&D development. Its location adjacent to the existing USSP would give its future occupiers access to the facilities and services which benefit other Science Park occupiers.

Q27 What are your views on promoting smaller workspaces within the borough? By definition, USSP offers space which is suitable for SMEs and it will continue to make an important contribution to the development and growth of innovative small businesses in the borough.

USSP looks forward to continuing to work closely with the Borough Council to deliver the continuing success of the Science Park during the plan period and beyond.

Yours faithfully,

Jeremy Gardiner
Head of Southampton Planning

