



To: Sally Basker, Chief Executive
Exeter Science Park
Innovation Centre
University of Exeter
Rennes Drive
Exeter
EX4 4RN

Economy and Planning, A3E
Somerset Council
County Hall
Taunton, Somerset
TA1 4DY
Tel: 01823 355842

Email: Isaac.Young@somerset.gov.uk

18 October 2023

Dear Sally

By way of a novation agreement dated 29 July 2020 between (1) Devon County Council (**DCC**) (2) Somerset County Council (**SCC**) and (3) Exeter Science Park Limited, DCC transferred all of its rights and obligations under and in connection with the Funding Agreement dated 31 October 2013 between (1) Devon County Council on behalf of the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (**HotSW LEP**) and (2) Exeter Science Park Limited] (**Funding Agreement**) to SCC (and to which Somerset Council is now in right as successor body to SCC).

Further to the recent exchange regarding an extension to the Exeter Science Park (ESP) loan, the LEP Board have considered the matter and have agreed a short extension to 30th November 2023 in order for ESP to develop and present a proposal for repayment thereafter. Any such proposal must include a credible and robust plan for repayment of the Growing Places Fund loan in full, along with relevant interest due.

Please note that as per the terms of the guarantee, this change does not affect the responsibilities of the guarantors, who are required to repay the loan plus outstanding interest should ESP not do so. The timeline is therefore as follows

- By 17.00 31st October, ESP to submit to Heart of the SW LEP a credible and robust plan for repayment of the Growing Places Fund loan in full, along with associated interest
- 6th November: Operations & Investment Committee will consider the proposal and make a recommendation to the LEP Board
- By 17.00 17th November, LEP Board to have considered OIC recommendation and decision made on the way forward
- Following the LEP Board decision, any revised arrangements confirmed to ESP in writing.

If the LEP Board does not agree any further extension, the loan with interest will be repayable on 30th November and as above, should this not be repaid by that date, the LEP will then ask the guarantors to meet their obligations.

Yours sincerely

David Ralph
Chief Executive
Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership