

REPORT TO: Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 23rd November 2011

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Enterprise Zone Daresbury

WARDS: All

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Members that the Operational Director Economy, Enterprise and Property will provide a presentation on the recently approved Enterprise Zone for Daresbury

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That a presentation on the development of an Enterprise Zone at Daresbury is noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Enterprise Zone status (which uniquely has the full support of 3 LEP's - Liverpool, Manchester and Cheshire and Warrington) enables the accelerated delivery of the plans to build on Daresbury's continuing role as a nationally designated Science and Innovation Campus, containing internationally competitive facilities, developing world-class science, and maximising opportunities for knowledge transfer.

3.2 The Daresbury vision is to deliver 1 million sq ft of science and technology development and over 10,000 new jobs, making Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus the most ambitious project in this sector anywhere in the UK.

3.3 All Enterprise Zones will benefit from:

- A business rate discount worth up to £275,000 per business over a five year period
- All business rates growth within the zone for a period of at least 25 years will be retained by the local area, to support the Partnership's economic priorities and ensure that Enterprise Zone growth is reinvested locally
- Government help to develop radically simplified planning approaches for the zone using, for example, provision of Local Development Order powers

- Government support to ensure that superfast broadband is rolled out throughout the zone, achieved through guaranteeing the most supportive regulatory environment and, if necessary, public funding.

Government will work with local enterprise partnerships on additional options, to suit local circumstances, **including consideration of:**

- Enhanced capital allowances for plant and machinery, in a limited number of cases and subject to State Aid, where there is a strong focus on manufacturing
- Tax Increment Finance to support the long-term viability of the area
- UKTI support for inward investment or trade opportunities in the zone.

The proposed timetable for implementation would be:

August 2011 – SCI TECH Zone at Daresbury designated as an Enterprise Zone

September 2011 – March 2012: Government will work with the SCI-Tech Zone partnership to agree the specific package required to address the local economic challenge.

October 2011 – March 2012: Halton, as local planning authority will need to establish a local development orders (LDO) to cover the zone.

April 2012: Subject to agreement from government, the SCI-TECh Zone at Daresbury will be officially established.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Daresbury SIC is one of two national science and innovation campuses, the other being Harwell.

The vision for the Daresbury Science & Innovation Campus is to create:

- Nearly 100 acres dedicated to Science & Technology, the largest such Campus in the North.
- A growth location for world class Science & Technology businesses from small to medium enterprises SME to Multi-National Corporations.

- 4.2 However, in order to realise this ambitious vision, partners submitted a bid for Enterprise Zone status to further encourage and stimulate demand from high value businesses to the site.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Without Enterprise Zone status, Daresbury SIC could be dependent on potential interest from speculative developers acquiring land on a long-term lease basis or requests from large blue-chips wanting to acquire

land for corporate headquarter-type activity. All of these are very speculative in the current economic climate and more difficult to deliver. The natural result is that the momentum of the Campus growth would slow and potentially stall. Enterprise Zone status provides added momentum in providing a vehicle for developing site infrastructure and bringing sites forward for development.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The report recognises the role Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus is playing in attracting major businesses to the Borough, thereby improving the Borough's overall employment offer.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

6.4 A Safer Halton

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

6.6 Daresbury SIC is contributing to the diversification of Halton's business base and commercial premises portfolio; it is a site that combines high science, research and development, and innovation with business opportunity.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

Reductions in public funding could impact on the speed at which development of the Science and Innovation Campus takes place. Therefore, it is a major boost to secure Enterprise Zone status to encourage businesses to relocate and invest in the area.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

As part of the submission seeking Enterprise Zone status, bidders were required to demonstrate how their proposals would engage with the wider community and contribute to ensuring equality of access for all to the new and emerging opportunities arising from the investment on the campus.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Enterprise Zone Daresbury bid to Government	Municipal Building	Wesley Rourke