

## Decision Report – Cabinet Key decision

10th July 2017

### Somerset Energy Innovation Centre (Phases 2 and 3)

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr David Hall (Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development)

Division and Local Member(s): Cllr David Hall Bridgwater East and Bawdrip

Lead Officer: Paula Hewitt, Lead Director for Economic and Community Infrastructure & Director of Commissioning

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	<b>Seen by:</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
	County Solicitor	Honor Clarke (delegated to Tom Woodhams)	19/06/2017
	Monitoring Officer	Julian Gale	14/06/2017
	Corporate Finance	Kevin Nacey	28/06/2017
	Human Resources	Chris Squire	20/06/2017
	Property / Procurement / ICT	Richard Williams	26/06/2017
	Senior Manager	Paula Hewitt	15/06/2017
	Local Member(s)	Cllr David Hall	26/06/2017
	Cabinet Members	Cllr David Hall (Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development)	26/06/2017
	Opposition Spokesperson	Cllr Simon Coles (Spokesperson for Resources and Economic Development)	27/06/2017
	Relevant Scrutiny Chairman	Cllr Tony Lock (Chairman for Scrutiny Place)	26/06/2017
<b>Forward Plan Reference:</b>	FP/17/05/06		
<b>Summary:</b>	<p>Somerset County Council (“SCC”) has successfully delivered phase 1 of the Somerset Energy Innovation Centre (“SEIC 1”) located at Woodlands Business Park, Bridgwater.</p> <p>SEIC 1 opened in February 2016 and is currently 90% occupied.</p> <p>SCC is now in a position to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• proceed with the construction of phase 2 of the SEIC (“SEIC 2”) which will deliver 2,000m<sup>2</sup> of flexible office, meeting and light industrial units; and</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop the design of phase 3 of the SEIC development (“SEIC 3”) to RIBA Stage 3.</li> </ul> <p>Definition of RIBA Stage 3 is: preparing the 'developed design, including co-ordinated and updated proposals for structural design, building services systems, outline specifications, cost information and project strategies in accordance with the design programme.' Spatial coordination should be completed and change control procedures introduced, and typically landscape designs will be prepared and planning applications made.</p> <p><b>SEIC 2:</b> The majority of funding for SEIC 2 is being sourced via the HotSW LEP’s Growth Deal (funds 1 &amp; 2) with smaller contributions planned from ERDF and SCC.</p> <p>Growth Deal funding has been confirmed and a separate Officer Key Decision is scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> July 2017 to enter into the funding agreement.</p> <p>ERDF funding of £869,089 is subject to finalising the funding agreement with DCLG. However, to enable the construction of SEIC 2 to commence in line with the Growth Deal funding timescales, the ERDF funding has been underwritten from existing SCC funding allocations to the SEIC programme.</p> <p>Completion of the construction of SEIC 2 is due end-December 2018 with a formal opening of the Centre planned for April 2019.</p> <p><b>SEIC 3:</b></p> <p>Will deliver 2,000m<sup>2</sup> of flexible office, meeting/conference and collaborative innovation space (although the internal configuration may change subject to market demand).</p> <p>Completion of SEIC 3 is subject to SCC securing the full funding package to deliver the project. However, to do this it is necessary to develop the design of SEIC 3 to RIBA Stage 3 as this information is required in the funding applications.</p> <p><b>This Decision Report is required to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• appoint the construction works contractor to deliver SEIC 2; and</li> <li>• develop the design of SEIC 3 to RIBA Stage 3 to enable SCC to bid for and secure the full funding package to deliver this stage of the project.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p>	<p><b>That the Cabinet :-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approves the appointment of the construction works</li> </ul>

	<p><b>contractor Wilmott Dixon via the SCAPE Major Works Construction Framework for the construction of SEIC 2; and</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Authorise the development of the design for SEIC 3 to progress to RIBA Stage 3.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Reasons for Recommendations:</b></p>	<p>During the construction of Hinkley Point C (“HPC”), EDF Energy has stated that they will place approximately 160 major contracts with Tier 1 suppliers, who in turn will place hundreds of contracts for goods and services with a range of lower tier suppliers.</p> <p>SEIC 2 will build on the success of SEIC 1 by providing the infrastructure, business support and networking environment to encourage innovation and collaboration between upper and lower tier suppliers. Some of these will be Somerset based and others will be national and international inward investors attracted to the County by the high quality of SEIC 2’s facilities, the opportunities to develop a local supply chain and the close proximity of the Centre to HPC.</p> <p>The business support activity and collaboration opportunities will help Somerset’s SMEs to develop and grow their businesses to enable them to win contracts and become part of the supply chain for HPC and other low carbon initiatives in the region.</p> <p>In addition, there will be a limited number of office and light industrial workspace available for businesses in other sectors (non-nuclear) with high growth potential.</p> <p>The purpose of the SEIC development is to generate jobs and the development of a low carbon energy supply chain cluster in Somerset and promote long-term structural change in the local economy including increasing SCC’s local income base through the generation of additional business rate income.</p> <p>This supports the Council’s ambition to ensure that the benefits of the development of HPC in Somerset are “reached out across the County” and will help deliver jobs, businesses and growth.</p> <p><b>Approve the appointment of the construction works contractor Wilmott Dixon via the SCAPE Major Works Construction Framework for the construction of SEIC 2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The procurement of the construction services was carried out through the SCAPE – Major Works Framework and has been managed by SCC’s Corporate Property Group and Procurement Team who have the necessary expertise and are experienced in using Frameworks. Use of a Framework Agreement will deliver time and cost savings to the procurement process, resulting in shorter timescales to contract delivery for time-sensitive work.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SCAPE Framework was selected because it is the only Framework currently available to SCC that is compliant with ERDF Procurement Regulations. Compliance is a condition of the ERDF funding.</li> <li>• Wilmott Dixon bidder is the sole provider (for this size of project) on the Framework. SCC’s Property Services and Procurement teams are satisfied with the Framework and have recommended the appointment of Wilmott Dixon.</li> </ul> <p><b>Authorise the development of the design for SEIC 3 to progress to RIBA Stage 3:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEIC 3 will deliver the final stage of the current planned SEIC development. To deliver this stage, the Council will need to secure Growth Deal 3 funding.</li> <li>• The GD3 funding application require the full design drawings, build costs, planning permission etc. of all capital build projects.</li> <li>• Authorisation to develop the design for SEIC 3 to RIBA Stage 3 will provide this information and enable the Council to submit a strong, robust application to secure funding.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Links to Priorities and Impact on Service Plans:</b></p>	<p>The development of SEIC 2 and 3 links to the following Priorities and Impact on Service Plans as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The County Plan 2016-2020 by supporting the delivery of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our <b>vision for Somerset</b> is simple. More jobs; more homes; more powers from government; more local co-operation; better health; better education and prospects; better roads, rail, broadband and mobile signal.”</li> <li>• Our <b>ambition</b> for “A significant ‘push’ on energy initiatives. We want to be at the heart of discussions about solar power and tidal lagoons to make sure Somerset is in the vanguard of developments.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Economic development targets:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Helping small businesses:</b> we will work with our partners to bring more start-ups and attract new business in to Somerset.</li> <li>• <b>Helping business succeed:</b> we will work with partners to deliver the benefits of the Somerset Growth Plan – more jobs, more enterprise centres, more homes, better education and increased productivity</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Economy and Planning Group Service Plan:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The delivery of SEIC 2 and 3 projects are identified as key priorities within the Service Plan and fit with the Council’s move from direct delivery to commissioning of services to deliver local economic development.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Somerset Growth Plan:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting more jobs, more enterprise centres, more homes, better education and increased productivity</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>The HotSW LEP Strategic Economic Plan:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identifies nuclear as one of the transformational growth opportunities for the LEP area and the wider Low Carbon Energy Innovation and Collaboration Programme is a key initiative in the Hinkley Deal.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>SCC’s Social Value Priority 4:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Creating opportunities for micro-providers / small and medium enterprises to be part of supply chains which support Somerset County Council priorities and service delivery.”</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Consultations and co-production undertaken:</b></p>	<p>The development of the SEIC development is the result of significant consultations and engagement with private sector organisations including EDF Energy, the Heart of the South West LEP, Government departments, RegenSW, Somerset businesses, further education and local authority partners.</p> <p>Businesses and organisations including those related to the low carbon energy sector have been consulted through two separate regional surveys and through the Planning and Business Planning stages of the project.</p> <p>SCC’s Property Services team has been consulted and are providing support and advice about the capital aspects of the scheme.</p> <p>SCC’s Procurement Team, Corporate Property Group and Legal Services Team have been involved in the delivery of SEIC 1 and are working closely with the Economy &amp; Planning Group project team to deliver SEIC 2 and 3.</p>
<p><b>Financial Implications:</b></p>	<p><b>The financial implications of the decision to “Approve the appointment of Wilmott Dixon via the SCAPE Major Works Construction Framework for the construction of SEIC 2 are:</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing SEIC 2 will enable the Council to leverage combined European and Government capital funding of £6.1 million into the County to develop high quality infrastructure to support business growth.</li> <li>• Construction costs will be met by ERDF and Growth Deal 1 and 2 funds.</li> </ul> <p><b>The financial implications of the decision to “Authorise the development of the design for SEIC 3 to progress to RIBA Stage 3” are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cost of the design of SEIC 3 will be met by SCC through previously approved SCC capital funding for the project.</li> <li>• The design of SEIC 3 to RIBA Stage 3 is a requirement of Growth Deal funding and is needed to produce a strong and robust application for funding. Without making this investment, SCC will not be able to leverage £2.75 million of GD 3 funding into the County and SEIC 3 will not go ahead.</li> </ul> <p>In addition there are further, positive long term financial implications for SCC generated through the uplift in business rates from the successful delivery of SEIC 2 and 3.</p> <p>The Director of Finance has replied that he is “happy with this decision”</p>
<p><b>Legal Implications:</b></p>	<p>The procurement of Wilmott Dixon for the construction works contract for SEIC 2 has been managed by the Council’s Property Services and Procurement teams with support from legal colleagues as required. This is normal SCC practice for these projects.</p> <p>The contract awarded to the Design and Build Professional Services team includes the development of the design and build elements for both SEIC 2 and 3.</p> <p>However, the contract is set up to enable SCC to progress the design and build of both SEIC 2 and 3 in stages. Should we not secure the full funding package for SEIC 3, we will only be liable for the work carried out by the Design and Build Professional Services team to that point.</p> <p>Legal, Procurement and Property Services are experienced in contracting services in this way as for SEIC 1 which was delivered in two stages.</p> <p>There are cost and time savings in contracting in this way.</p> <p>In addition, colleagues from our Legal Services team are part of the SEIC Project Delivery Team and are informed and consulted about all aspects of the project.</p>

	<p>The County Solicitor has advised that he “doesn’t think it is necessary to add any more information here as the relevant points have been covered and the risk seems minimal.”</p>
<p><b>HR Implications:</b></p>	<p>There are no HR implications in taking these decisions. The project will continue to be managed by the existing resources in the Economy and Planning Group and SEIC is identified as a priority in the Economy and Planning Commissioning Intentions Plan.</p> <p>The appointment and management of the construction company Services Team will be managed by existing SCC staff and via the Design and Build services company, Capita, which has already been procured to provide project management and professional services.</p> <p>The Director of HR &amp; OD reported that he was happy with the Decision Paper and had no additional comments to make.</p>
<p><b>Risk Implications:</b></p>	<p>There is a commercial (but not legal) risk in using the SCAPE major works framework as it will mean a direct award to one supplier.</p> <p>However, this risk is mitigated by the fact that the framework has already gone through a competitive process and is the only framework that is ERDF compliant that is currently available to the Council.</p> <p>In addition, the use of a Framework Agreement will deliver time and cost savings to the procurement process, resulting in shorter timescales to contract delivery for time-sensitive work.</p> <p>Risks will be mitigated through the management of the framework agreement by the Corporate Property Group and Commercial Procurement Team who have the necessary expertise and experience in using framework agreements and through the fact the supplier is required to seek multiple quotes within their supply chain to demonstrate value for money.</p> <p>There is a low risk that the ERDF application for funding will be unsuccessful. This risk has been mitigated through SCC agreeing to underwrite up to the maximum of £885,000 and the delivery of SEIC 3 can be scaled back accordingly, if required.</p> <p>There is a risk in developing the design for SEIC phase 3 to support the HotSW LEP Growth Deal 3 funding application, as SCC may not be successful in securing the full funding package. This risk has been mitigated since the development of the funding package to enable the delivery of SEIC phase 3 is already in place. SCC has developed the outline business case</p>

	<p>for HotSW LEP Growth Deal 3, and has significant experience in putting together similar successful funding applications. In the circumstance where the underwrite of phase 2 from SCC were to be called upon, the building footprint of phase 3 would be reduced to remove financial exposure to SCC.</p>						
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Likelihood</td> <td>2</td> <td>Impact</td> <td>3</td> <td>Risk Score</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </table>	Likelihood	2	Impact	3	Risk Score	6
Likelihood	2	Impact	3	Risk Score	6		
<p><b>Other Implications (including due regard implications):</b></p>	<p>Due regard considerations have been considered for the whole of this project and an impact assessment has been carried out.</p> <p><b><u>Equalities Implications</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Equality and Diversity / Access:</u></b> the Somerset Energy Innovation Centre will have the following positive impacts on protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act 2010:-</p> <p>The Centre Operator for SEIC building 2 will positively promote equality of opportunity by ensuring that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- They deliver services in line with an agreed and robust equalities policy</li> <li>- All marketing and communication is both accessible and inclusive, being targeted at all diversity strands</li> <li>- The premises are accessible</li> </ul> <p>The contract with the construction works company (Willmott Dixon) will include the condition “to achieve tangible social community benefits alongside economic growth by creating skills and training opportunities in the local workplace, and the delivery of apprenticeships and local employment opportunities”</p> <p><b><u>Human rights:</u></b> there are no human rights issues with accepting the HotSW LEP Growth Deal funding or appointing the construction company to construct phase 2 of the Centre or proceeding with the design of SEIC phase 3 to enable SCC to secure the full funding package</p> <p>The Operator of the Centre will be contracted to meet SCC’s equalities and diversity policies</p> <p><b><u>Sustainability:</u></b> the Centre will actively promote the development of Somerset’s low carbon energy business sector by addressing current market failure. SEIC will support and encourage incubation, growth and collaboration; and will help to accelerate technological change in the low-carbon energy business sectors by driving the research, development and commercialisation of associated technologies.</p> <p>In addition, SEIC will be delivered in line with BREEAM Excellent (high-quality environmental standards) in both the construction and operational phases.</p>						



	<p><b><u>Health and Safety:</u></b> the Centre will be designed and built in accordance with the CDM regulations and will therefore have a neutral impact on health and safety.</p> <p><b><u>Community Safety:</u></b> there are no foreseeable Community Safety implications. The Centre will have a positive impact on economic prosperity, quality of life and well-being in Somerset. In addition the centre will be designed in conjunction with “secured by design” principles and guidance will be sought from the Police Architectural Liaison Officer in order to ensure that community safety is promoted.</p> <p><b><u>Privacy</u></b> A Privacy Impact Assessment is not required in relation to this project.</p> <p>Any FoI requests received by SCC regarding this project will be responded to in accordance with FoI requirements and SCC policy.</p> <p>The SCC project team are aware of data protection issues and will comply with data protection rules.</p> <p>Once operational, the Operator of the Centre will comply with data protection rules. However, the Operator will need to evidence outputs achieved and may need to gather information on tenants or businesses receiving business support through the Centre. All businesses will be asked from the first engagement for their consent to use their information in this way.</p>
<p><b>Scrutiny comments / recommendation (if any):</b></p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>

## 1. Background

### 1.1. *SEIC is a priority project for the Somerset Growth Plan and the Heart of the South West LEP Growth Plan.*

*SEIC is being delivered in phases as SCC secures funding for each phase. This Decision Report is required to move the project forward and seeks authorisation to:*

- ***Approve the appointment of Wilmott Dixon via the SCAPE Major Works Construction Framework for the construction of SEIC 2; and***
- ***Authorise the development of the design for SEIC 3 to progress to RIBA Stage 3.***

*SEIC 2 will comprise of flexible office and light industrial space to enable Somerset and the South West's businesses to develop the capacity, capability and competitiveness required to win contracts in low carbon energy initiatives including HPC. The Centre will also include 400 sq m ERDF funded managed workspace on flexible terms for SMEs not connected to the nuclear supply chain with growth and high-value employment creation potential. A detailed planning application was been submitted to Sedgemoor District Council which was approved in December 2016.*

*SEIC 3 will deliver managed office, conferencing and collaborative innovation space (although this configuration may change due to market demand). Completion of SEIC 3 is subject to SCC securing the full funding package to deliver the project and a separate SCC Decision will be sought before progressing with the construction contract and to accept the external funding package.*

*There is a shortage of suitable available office space and development land in Bridgwater and according to local property agent, Alder King, "the construction of a new innovation centre at woodlands Business Park will increase supply significantly and is likely to capture demand from HPC supply companies".*

## 2. Options considered and reasons for rejecting them

### 2.1. *To limit the development of SEIC 2 to 1,600 sq*

This option was considered and rejected because all the consultation and research that we have carried out suggests that the most successful innovation centres have a minimum of 2,000 sq m of flexible office, meeting and networking space. The focus of the Centre is on supporting the development of a local supply chain through business support and collaborative working with upper tier contractors and to support the creation of advanced capacities for products, services and development targeted at SMEs from a range of sectors that meet the ERDF eligibility criteria

### 2.2 *Not to proceed with SEIC 2 or 3*

This option was considered and rejected as the scale of demand envisaged for the Centre and its services will out-strip the provision in SEIC 1. If we are unable to meet the demand we will not be able to make the most of the economic benefits that will be presented by the Hinkley C development or support growth in a range of other sectors, and may not be able to fully realise the Council's key County Plan Priorities, and the priorities of HotSW LEP

### **3. Background Papers**

(for copies of any of the background papers, please contact the report author)

#### **3.1. Officer Non-Key Decision, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

“That the Director of Commissioning and Lead Commissioner for Economic and Community Infrastructure:

Authorises SCC acting as the applicant authority and submitting expressions of interest for ESIF funds for the CDS infrastructure delivery and phase 2 of the SEIC”

#### **Cabinet Member Decision, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

‘That the Cabinet Member for Business, Inward Investment and Policy approves

the commencement of the procurement process for construction of phases two and three of the Somerset Energy Innovation Centre (SEIC)

the underwriting of the proposed ERDF contribution to phase 2 of SEIC up to a maximum of £885,000 from existing SCC capital approvals allocated to SEIC’

#### **Officer Key Decision, 17 March 2016**

‘That the Director of Commissioning and Lead Commissioner for Economic and Community Infrastructure approves the appointment of the preferred bidder to provide Professional Services (project management and design services) to SCC to enable the delivery of phases 2 and 3 of the Somerset Energy Innovation Centre’

#### **3.2 Impact Assessment (shown below)**

#### **Equality Impact Assessment Form and Action Table 2015**

(Expand the boxes as appropriate, please see guidance ([www.somerset.gov.uk/impactassessment](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/impactassessment)) to assist with completion)

"I shall try to explain what "due regard" means and how the courts interpret it. The courts have made it clear that having due regard is **more than having a cursory glance** at a document before arriving at a preconceived conclusion. Due regard requires public authorities, in formulating a policy, to give equality considerations the weight which is **proportionate in the circumstances**, given the potential impact of the policy on equality. It is not a question of box-ticking; it requires the equality impact to be **considered rigorously and with an open mind.**"

**Baroness Thornton, March 2010**

**What are you completing the Impact Assessment on (which policy, service, MTFP reference, cluster etc)?**

Appointing the construction company will enable the delivery of phase 2 of the Somerset Energy Innovation Centre (SEIC). Proceeding with the design for SEIC phase 3 will assist in enabling SCC securing the full funding package to deliver the construction of SEIC phase 3

**Version**

1

**Date**

5 June 2017

**Section 1 – Description** of what is being impact assessed

SEIC located at Woodlands Business Park, Bridgwater is part of the Council's agreed Low Carbon Energy Innovation and Collaboration Programme (Cabinet, 6th Feb 2013) to:

- Support the establishment and growth of new low carbon energy businesses in Somerset, including new starts, joint ventures and inward investors
- Help existing local businesses access opportunities in the local, national and international nuclear and low carbon energy sectors from 2015 onwards
- Support knowledge and technology transfer between HE/FE and businesses, through supporting businesses to develop collaborative innovation projects
- Provide the infrastructure to enable these businesses to operate easily in Somerset and in close proximity to other businesses and stakeholders in the cluster
- Secure a self-sustaining model of business incubation support through earned income streams that will continue to deliver the incubation scheme without further subsidy.

Phase 1 has delivered 3,000 sq. m of flexible office, meeting and networking space

Phase 2 will deliver 2,000 sq m of flexible office and light industrial space.

Phase 3 will deliver 2,000 sq m of office, conferencing, meeting and collaborative innovation space (this configuration may change due to market demand)

The construction of phase 2 should be completed and formally opened by April 2019; the construction of phase 3 is dependent on SCC securing the full funding package to deliver the project

**Section 2A – People or communities that are targeted or could be affected** (taking particular note of the Protected Characteristic listed in action table)

The Centre and its services specifically targets:

- Local new-start-up businesses and existing SMEs who will benefit from focused business support and access to the innovation centre and its facilities.
- Joint ventures and inward investors locating in Somerset as part of the Hinkley

Point C and wider low carbon supply chain who will benefit from the support and infrastructure provided by the project, and who will in-turn employ local people and contribute towards Somerset's economic growth.

- The residents of Somerset who will benefit from sustainable economic growth and high quality local employment opportunities.

In addition, during the construction of phases 2 and 3 the appointed construction company will aim to achieve tangible social community benefits alongside economic growth by creating skills and training opportunities in the local workplace, and the delivery of apprenticeships and local employment opportunities.

### **Section 2B – People who are delivering the policy or service**

The Economy and Planning Group, with the support of SCC's Procurement and Property Services Teams will procure the Service and will manage the Service.

SCC owns the Centre but will appoint an Operator to manage phases 2 and 3 of the Centre. The governance/contract management of the Operator will be through the Economy and Planning Group directly with the Operator of the Centre.

The appointed construction company will aim to achieve tangible social community benefits alongside economic growth by creating skills and training opportunities in the local workplace, and the delivery of apprenticeships and local employment opportunities.

### **Section 3 – Evidence and data used for the assessment (Attach documents where appropriate)**

The Low Carbon Energy Innovation and Collaboration Programme is a key element of the 'low carbon economy framework', which forms part of EDF Energy's evidence for their Development Consent Order (DCO) application and has been agreed by Cabinet leads from SCC, West Somerset Council and Sedgemoor District Council.

In developing the Programme, SCC has directly collaborated with EDF Energy, West Somerset Council, Sedgemoor District Council and Exmoor National Park Authority. In addition, SCC has consulted with other key stakeholders, including AREVA; Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre; South West Energy Cluster; Somerset Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Bridgwater College; Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership; and the Homes and Communities Agency and received their endorsement of the proposals.

### **Section 4 – Conclusions drawn about the equalities impact (positive or negative) of the proposed change or new service/policy (Please use **prompt sheet** in the guidance for help with what to consider):**

Positive impacts regarding protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act 2010 include the following:-

The Centre Operator will positively promote equality of opportunity by ensuring that:

- They deliver services in line with an agreed and robust equalities policy;
- All marketing and communication is both accessible and inclusive, being targeted at all diversity strands;
- The innovation centre premises are accessible.

It will also identify and communicate:

- Local childcare facilities and provision;
- A travel plan, with a focus on public transport accessibility

The construction of the Centre will follow these principles and the contract is let to the Operator on the basis of their following these and associated actions.

Somerset County Council will ensure that the above actions are achieved through regular contract monitoring and project highlight reports with the procured Centre Operator and construction company.

**If you have identified any negative impacts you will need to consider how these can be mitigated to either reduce or remove them. In the table below let us know what mitigation you will take. (Please add rows where needed)**

Identified issue drawn from your conclusions	Actions needed – can you mitigate the impacts? If you can how will you mitigate the impacts?	Who is responsible for the actions? When will the action be completed?	How will it be monitored? What is the expected outcome from the action?
<b>Age</b>			
<b>Disability</b>			
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>			
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b>			
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>			
<b>Race (including ethnicity or national origin, colour, nationality and Gypsies and Travellers)</b>			
<b>Religion and Belief</b>			
<b>Sex</b>			
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>			
<b>Other (including caring responsibilities, rurality, low income, Military Status etc)</b>			

**Section 6** - How will the assessment, consultation and outcomes be published and communicated? E.g. reflected in final strategy, published. What steps are in place to review the Impact Assessment

This decision paper (including the Impact Assessment) will be published on the SCC website.

The Impact Assessment will be reviewed in a year's time as part of the project implementation and monitoring plan which will be managed by the Economy and Planning Group, with the support of SCC's Commercial Procurement and Property Services Teams.

<b>Completed by:</b>	John Carter
<b>Date</b>	14 June 2017
<b>Signed off by:</b>	Paul Hickson
<b>Date</b>	14 June 2017
<b>Compliance sign off Date</b>	June 2017
<b>To be reviewed by: (officer name)</b>	John Carter
<b>Review date:</b>	14 June 2018