**From:** Steven Newman
**Sent:** 07 August 2018 22:18
**To:** Gavin Forrest
**Subject:** RE: 18/00803/OUT - Begbroke Science Park
**Importance:** High

Hi Gavin

Please find my comments attached…

**Steven Newman**

**Senior Economic Growth Officer**

Place & Growth Directorate

Cherwell District and South Northamptonshire Councils

Direct dial: 01295 221860

steven.newman@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

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**From:** Gavin Forrest
**Sent:** 06 August 2018 12:50
**To:** Steven Newman
**Subject:** RE: 18/00803/OUT - Begbroke Science Park

Steve,

Thanks for letting me know.

Gavin

**From:** Steven Newman
**Sent:** 06 August 2018 12:50
**To:** Gavin Forrest
**Subject:** RE: 18/00803/OUT - Begbroke Science Park

Hi Gavin

After being on leave I am catching up and have cancelled another commitment to hopefully do tomorrow…

**Steven Newman**
**Senior Economic Growth Officer**
Cherwell District Council

Place & Growth Directorate
Direct Dial 01295 221860
steven.newman@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk
[www.cherwell.gov.uk](http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/)

**From:** Gavin Forrest
**Sent:** 06 August 2018 10:55
**To:** Steven Newman
**Subject:** RE: 18/00803/OUT - Begbroke Science Park

Steve,

Following on from my email on the 18th July, can you please give an indication as to when I will received a response. I am trying to pull the committee report together for the end of the week. Sorry for chasing……

Regards

Gavin

Gavin Forrest

Principal Planning Officer – Major Development Team

Development Management

Cherwell District Council

01295 221599

Gavin.forrest@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

**From:** Steven Newman
**Sent:** 18 July 2018 19:59
**To:** Gavin Forrest
**Subject:** RE: 18/00803/OUT - Begbroke Science Park

Hi Gavin

Yes, I’m having to cover so thanks for the reminder and I’ll get back to you ASAP.

Thanks, Steve

**From:** Gavin Forrest
**Sent:** 18 July 2018 08:25
**To:** Steven Newman
**Subject:** 18/00803/OUT - Begbroke Science Park

Good Morning Steve,

I am dealing with the application detailed above. Economic Development were consulted regarding the application on the 17th of May. We still have not received a consultation response. Is this something you are dealing with? If not could you let me know who the relevant officer is?

Regards

Gavin

Gavin Forrest

Principal Planning Officer

Major Developments Team

Development Management

Place and Growth Directorate

Cherwell District Council

Gavin.Forrest@Cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

01295 221599



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**DEVELOPMENT - INTERNAL MEMORANDUM**

**Application No.:** 18/00803/OUT

**Location:** Begbroke Science Park

**Proposal:** Outline planning permission, with all matters except for access reserved for subsequent approval, for up to 12,500m2 of B1a / b / c and ancillary D1 floor space, retention of and improvements to the existing vehicular, public transport, pedestrian and cycle access including internal circulation routes; associated car parking including re-disposition of existing car parking; associated hard and soft landscape works; any necessary demolition (unknown at this stage); and associated drainage, infrastructure and ground re-modelling works.

**Comments from the Senior Economic Growth Officer**

**Summary**

The renewal and extension of this outline planning application represents an extremely important component of Cherwell’s economic development strategy which I wholeheartedly support.

**Cherwell Economic Development Strategy**

The previous economic development strategy (2011-16) adopted by the Council remains relevant today in recognising Begbroke Science Park as not only an important local asset but also a driver of the regional and national economy.

In paragraph 3.8, it recognised that “Over the last decade, the University of Oxford has developed Begbroke Science Parkinto a successful centre for scientific research, much of it linked to the Departments of Engineering and Materials Science. In addition to meeting the space requirements of the University, the Science Park has provided facilities and support to those wishing to develop commercially the results of pure research initiatives through its purpose-built Centre for Innovation & Enterprise. Further expansion plans at Begbroke will ensure that Kidlington has an increasingly important role to play in developing the ‘knowledge economy’.

In paragraph 4.21, “Both LEPs identify high value clusters including Advanced Technology/Precision Engineering; Creative Industries; Life Sciences/Biotech; and Finance/Businesses Services, coupled with the strengths of nearby education establishments including the University of Oxford…”

Theme 7 of the Strategy is to “**Promote business & cluster development**

**Continue to support the growth of established clusters** locally involved with the biomedical, nanotechnology, materials engineering, motorsport and other high-technology sectors, identify key areas for co-operative development, and identify further clusters. A key action is to “Develop Begbroke Science Park to include:

1. Opening an ISIS Innovation Centre to enhance technology transfer cluster (achieved), and
2. Provide additional space for spin-off companies (the current proposal).”

The outcome was identified as “increasing floorspace from 12,148sq.m to 21,236sq.m” with a timescale of “Long-term development by 2021”.

The Strategy also includes an aim to **Maximise Kidlington’s unique advantages:** promote the benefits of the airport, University of Oxford Begbroke Science Park and its proximity to Oxford in supporting local business growth”. The related action is to “Support Begbroke Science Park & encourage ‘spin-out’ companies to remain within north Oxon, attract

other related businesses, and sustainably develop the airport and other transport infrastructure.” The Outcome is expected to be the “Development of science

and technology ‘cluster’, transport infrastructure and and high value jobs.”

**Planning Statement**

I agree with the thrust of the Planning Statement, including the Begbroke Science Park is an established and renowned hub of high technology research facilities that support the University of Oxford and its affiliates. The Science Park is a vital research centre for the University as an academic-led commercial science park, research hub and campus. It is recognised as a facility of international significance and of great importance to the local, regional and national economies.”

I also agree that most recent addition to the site – the Accelerator Building – has added considerable vitality to the Innovation Centre and increased the options for expanding businesses to thrive since 2017. It is now fully occupied and the Sceince Park is once again in a position where its most successful enterprises may have to leave the site and possibly the district to find suitable accommodation. The provision of additional accommodation would contribute to the Council’s policy to create a Sustainable local economy.

The current proposal appears to include an additional 2,500 sq.m. of commercial development which I consider to be reasonable given the evident current strong demand for floorspace and the need for long-term planning of space requirements to generate the economic growth necessary to support considerable housing growth locally.

**Strategic Case**

The Strategic Case for Renewed Outline Planning Approval provides evidence of the loss of some of the most valuable spin-out companies from Begbroke Science Park to Oxford – including one moving its manufacturing abroad. The provision of commercial space in Bicester and Banbury now provide alternatives to support the production needs of Begbroke tenants which means that the potential economic driving force of Begbroke for the whole district is greater than ever. Indeed, the uniqueness of Begbroke Science Park is its driving force in the exploitation of academic research: ‘Where Science and Industry meet’.

The contribution of this proposal towards the Oxfordshire Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) is mentioned and I would also point out that Begbroke Science Park (and Cherwell as a whole) are part of the LIS for the South East Midlands LIS.

Begbroke Science Park is located on the national growth corridor between Oxford and Cambridge. Government recognised the Park’s importance in 2014 by awarding Oxford City Deal funding for the extension of the Innovation Centre (as noted above). The Government’s subsequent promotion of a National Industrial Strategy relies upon such enhanced facilities to support innovation, as now being considered in this proposal to create the facilities in which collaboration can thrive.

The ‘Future vision’ identifies the key reasons for this proposal which I consider to be important:

* Large‐scale R&D facilities for commercial tenants
* Innovation space for University spin‐outs and other high‐tech SMEs
* Device fabrication and prototyping facility
* Engineering and physical sciences research buildings.

The proposed design philosophy also incorporates lessons learned through previous developments on this site and I fully support, where possible, the principles of flexible and adaptable R&D space which will allow enterprises to develop on site.

Please contact me if further comments are required.

**Steven Newman**
**Senior Economic Growth Officer**
Cherwell District Council

Place & Growth Directorate
Direct Dial 01295 221860
steven.newman@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk
[www.cherwell.gov.uk](http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/)