

iAero Centre Update Report

Strategic Director: Martin Woods, Director
Service Manager: Peter Paddon, Lead Specialist Economy
Lead Officer: Joe Walsh - Specialist, Economic Development
Contact Details: Joe.walsh@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935462289

Purpose of the Report

To update Area South Committee on the iAero Centre as requested by Members.

Public Interest

This report provides an update on the iAero Centre Yeovil.

Recommendation

To note the report.

Background

The iAero Centre Project will deliver a purpose-built 2,398 m2 research, design and innovation facility in Yeovil to support the competitiveness and growth of the aerospace and associated high-value design and engineering technology supply chains. The Centre will offer high-quality office, light industrial and collaboration space as well as innovation support services and is expected to open fully in 2021.

Report Detail

The iAero Centre Project will deliver a purpose-built 2,398 m2 research, design and innovation facility in Yeovil to support the competitiveness and growth of the aerospace and associated high-value design and engineering technology supply chains. The Centre will offer high-quality office, light industrial and collaboration space as well as innovation support services and is expected to open fully in 2021.

The iAero Centre project is receiving up to £3,049,240 of funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020. Somerset County Council, the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership and Leonardo are also funding partners of the Centre.

Build progress:

Willmott Dixon is Somerset County Council's (SCC's) appointed construction contractor for the iAero (Yeovil) Centre

Work started on site in July 2019 and is progressing on schedule.

A time lapse camera has been set up on the iAero site and allows progress with construction of the Centre to be viewed - <https://www.willmottdixon.co.uk/projects/iaero-yeovil-centre>

Construction of the Centre is due to be completed in Summer 2020 and there will then be a fit out stage, with the Centre expected to open fully in 2021

Willmott Dixon is keen to engage with local schools and colleges as part of their Social Value work. They are currently working with Primrose Lane Primary School and Yeovil College to arrange site visits and work placements. They are also delivering the Construction Talent Academy on behalf of the South Somerset 14-19 Partnership

Operator / end user progress:

Somerset County Council are working with Partners (including Leonardo, LEP and SSDC) to define and take forward an operational strategy for the iAero Centre, including marketing and pipeline development.

Future engagement:

It has been agreed with Cllr Peter Gubbins (Area South Chairman) and Cllr John Clark (PFH Economic Development including Commercial Strategy) that a further update will be provided to Area South Committee. This will include an update on how iAero fits into the broader economic vision for South Somerset, Somerset and the HotSW LEP area. Over the coming months, significant progress will be made and we hope to be in a stronger position to update Members and key stakeholders.

Financial Implications

NA

Council Plan Implications

The iAero Centre will contribute to the economy objectives of the Council Plan.

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

This will not affect SSDC's Carbon Emissions and Climate Change commitments however products developed at the centre could impact the aerospace sector achieving cleaner growth.

Equality and Diversity Implications

NA

Background Papers

NA