

FOR JOBS AND PROSPERITY

Pledge 5 – Invest in science and innovation

What we said we would do: We will continue to invest in science and innovation by supporting the growth of the Plymouth Science Park – the largest in southern England.

What we wanted to achieve: Plymouth Science Park (PSP) seeks to develop a vibrant environment for innovation and entrepreneurial development by supporting the growth of knowledge-based businesses.

What we have done: We have continued to drive the direction of the PSP as it seeks to develop a vibrant environment for innovation and entrepreneurial development, through supporting the growth of knowledge-based businesses. PSP provides an environment that encourages beneficial exploitation of the research and education activities of the HEI community, and fosters exchange and collaboration among Park tenants, industry primes and supports innovators with their businesses. We have supported the establishment of the Plymouth Health Innovation Alliance; a collaboration between PCC, UoP, UHP NHS Trust, PSP and private sector medical/health businesses. This has raised national awareness to the breadth and scale of health related activities around the science park.

We encouraged the Park to broaden its offer to tenants and the wider Plymouth science and technology community. We encouraged investment in augmented reality equipment (e.g. HoloLens goggles) and a range of 3D printing machines to create an enabling technologies laboratory to help SMEs innovate and increase productivity. In 2020, we invited the PSP Chief Executive to coordinate the Health Care and Health Technology Sector recovery action plans. Three major success were achieved during 2020 as a direct consequence of our pledge to invest in Science and Innovation:

1. Lighthouse Laboratory – Plymouth selected to be the SW Regional Testing Hub for Covid by Department of Health and Social Care, part of the biggest diagnostic lab network in British history. Over £25m investment from DHSC, created over 200 jobs and 64,500ft² of facilities turning a vacant warehouse to world class biocontainment laboratories.
2. £1m HoTSWLEP Grant awarded to PSP to create a Health Technology Innovation Hub. The capital grant will deliver clean room life science laboratories, and specialist metal 3D printing capabilities that can produce clinical grade implants for surgery. The machines supplied in partnership with Renishaw and are the first this side of Bristol and can print in Titanium, Aluminium or Stainless Steel. A dedicated machine for medical grade implant production and a second R&D machine that can serve defence and marine sectors as well as med-tech. Included in this grant will be an additional 50KW solar array to help the park reduce its carbon footprint
3. PCC awarded a grant to PSP to install electric vehicle charge points encouraging uptake of electric vehicles and increase infrastructure capacity.

Despite covid-restrictions we supported the design and in-house production of modular, scalable lab-Pods, that allow individual workers to undertake experiments, research and studies that cannot be undertaken from home. This has since attracted a dental research company to relocate from the M4 corridor and helped demonstrate the City's innovation capabilities to DHSC.

What's next: We are recruiting a new Chair to help drive our strategy forward for the next decade. The Council will also continue with its work to integrate PSP with Resurgam Sector Action Plans, boost innovation, support high tech jobs and drive the skills agenda.

Find out more! Visit the PSP website for the latest news <https://plymouthsciencepark.com/>



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