



## GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership

Board Paper – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023

<b>Agenda Item (Title)</b>	Berkeley Cyber Centre (C11) Project Completion
<b>Paper Author &amp; contact details</b>	Neil Hopwood Neil.hopwood@gfirstlep.com
<b>Supporting Papers</b>	C11 Final Evaluation Report (attached)
<b>Confidentiality</b>	Open
<b>Purpose</b>	For the board to approve completion of the C11 project at Berkeley in line with the project delivery period ending 31-5-23 (re the Funding Agreement), to end formal monitoring of the project and to support the surrender of the lease of the first floor of the C11 building from UoG back to SGS Commercial Services Ltd (SGS CSL).
<b>Summary</b>	<p>The C11 centre was opened in 2017 to provide a Cyber conference and research facility operated by the UoG to support the growth of their Computing and Cyber Technology offer at both undergraduate and post graduate levels. Given the scale of the cyber cluster in Gloucestershire and the south west region it was essential that the UoG was seen as a credible provider of skills and research capability to the sector in order to take advantage of the growth happening locally. The increasing concentration of the sector around Cheltenham, the emergence of the Golden Valley scheme in 2020 and the dramatic shift in work patterns post covid have been very challenging to the project in recent times and the location has now become problematic in attracting interest from the Cyber sector, both for events and longer-term occupants.</p> <p>There is however a genuine opportunity to utilise the excellent facilities on site to create a more generic business hub and conference/training facility and incubation space, with a ‘soft-focus’ on renewable/low carbon energy. The centre provides excellent conference and training facilities and a more open brief will allow it to be marketed much more widely.</p> <p>The project has in broad terms fully met its objectives. It has enabled the UoG to significantly raise its profile as a credible institution for higher level Cyber teaching and research, it has been a significant catalyst for bringing other activity onto site (eg the Gloucestershire Constabulary Sabrina Training Centre and the Bloodhound project) and it has created a valued cyber brand “C11” that helped the UoG to expand its Cyber activity with a new partnership with FHM Duren - <a href="#">details here</a></p>

A relatively recent highlight was the *Cyber Tech Symposium* held in July 2022 at C11 that saw a full range of business and government officials as well as college, under grad and post grad students both attending and engaging in the event. With over 90 attending on the day, the theme of Protecting the Nation’s Infrastructure from Cyber Attacks was supported through speakers from the NCSC, IBM’s Security and Command Centre for Europe as well as professionals representing the NHS, The Institute of Coding and other leading organizations.

The UoG has significantly increased recruitment at undergraduate and post-grad levels in cyber-technology courses, as shown below. (figures to 21/22 enrolment year)

Subject UGT	Total number of new enrolments						
	2016/17 Baseline	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	
BSc Computer and cyber Forensics		79	79	83	76	24	56
BSc Cyber and computer Security		42	104	166	159	64	148
FdSc Cyber Security			1	11	9	5	9
BSc Cyber Security				10	8	12	
BSc Computing			33	43	39	48	
BSc Computer Science							80
BSc Cyber Security delivered by IDM				49	33	19	
BSc Applied Artificial Intelligence						4	15
BSc Computing Technologies						5	3
<b>Total per year</b>		121	217	362	324	181	311
<b>Total per year over baseline</b>			96	241	203	60	190
<b>Cumulative Increase from Baseline</b>			96	337	540	600	790

Subject PGT	Total number of new enrolments						
	2016/17 Baseline	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	
MSc Cyber Security		5	11	19	27	17	21
MSc Computing			6	3	2	4	
<b>Total per year</b>		5	17	22	29	21	21
<b>Total per year over baseline</b>			12	17	24	16	16
<b>Cumulative Increase from Baseline</b>			12	29	53	69	85

Subject PGR	Total number of new enrolments						
	2016/17 Baseline	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	
PhD Technical and Applied Computing				3	3	2	4
PhD Creative Computing				1	1	2	
<b>Total per year</b>		0	0	4	4	4	4
<b>Total per year over baseline</b>			0	4	4	4	4
<b>Cumulative Increase from Baseline</b>			0	4	8	12	16

Additionally, the MSc Cyber Security is now NCSC accredited.

In Dec 2022 it was announced that the UoG has been awarded £5.8m from the Office for Students to build a state-of-the-art Computing and Engineering Centre at the Park Campus in Cheltenham (to be open in 2024) which will further concentrate activity in Cheltenham and so it makes sense to enable the UoG to focus its efforts on successfully delivering this facility and the activities associated with it in Cheltenham. Further details [here](#).

The surrender of the lease for the first floor of C11 will enable SGS CSL to re-purpose the space into a more general business hub, with excellent conference and training facilities, networking space and offices to rent. A recent award to SGS College to develop a low carbon retrofit training centre on the ground floor will provide a potential focus for businesses to locate to the centre and will complement existing business activity on site. The management of the facility will revert to SGS CSL who are the head-lease holder for the building.

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<b>Implications, impacts or risks</b>	This decision will allow the UoG to focus its efforts on its Cheltenham computing hub. The facility created through award of the LGF grant (£3m in total) will continue to be in active use for appropriate and relevant activities and will continue to support business development, education and innovation in Gloucestershire and the wider region. There are not considered to be any downside risks relative to the current situation.
<b>Decisions required</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To note the accomplishments and overall success of the project.</li><li>2. To approve closure of the project and the termination of the funding agreement in line with the project delivery period to 31-5-23 to enable UoG to surrender their lease holding back to SGS CSL.</li><li>3. To approve the use of the facility as a general business hub and training and conference centre under the management of SGS CSL.</li><li>4. To explore the potential for an uplift clause to return some of the capital funds based on a declining scale of grant divided by useful asset life, which is 50 years for a building.</li></ol>
<b>Recommendations</b>	To approve the decisions as proposed

For further information points raised in this Board paper, please contact Neil Hopwood  
[neil.hopwood@gfirstlep.com](mailto:neil.hopwood@gfirstlep.com)