

THE WYE CONCORDAT

A DECLARATION OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE RECTOR OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON,
AND THE LEADERS OF KENT COUNTY COUNCIL AND ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Wye Concordat establishes a framework for co-operation and collaboration between
the three stakeholders in the Wye Park Project, namely:
THE RECTOR OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON
THE LEADER OF ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
THE LEADER OF KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

The Parties to the Wye Concordat are committed to co-operation and working together to explore how we could best achieve our collective goals.

COLLECTIVE GOALS

South East. It is recognised by all the Parties that this facility will need to encompass all the following:

- World-class facilities for scientific research at Wye.
- Active participation of global industrial companies in the pharmaceutical, engineering, medical or other sectors as relevant.
- Administrative facilities, ensuring appropriate back-up.
- Social and leisure facilities of an appropriate quality.
- Housing of an appropriate range to cater for a broad spectrum of householders.
- Sustainable regeneration must drive the design, funding and economic aspects.
- Deliverability must be credible and achievable.

The Project will need to be of sufficient scale to capture the imagination and to encourage and to attract participants of the size and capability collectively to meet the "world-class" objective.

CONSIDERATIONS

The Parties to the Concordat recognise the following considerations as making a substantial contribution to the Project:

- A collaborative relationship with relevant higher education and further education institutions and the schools' agenda for raising the profile of science.
- A consultative approach to regeneration with relevant local interest groups, and recognised wider economic, social and environmental bodies, in line with normal planning practices, where active and constructive inputs will add to the quality of Wye Park.
- Wye has been a centre for learning for some 550 years and this will give the Campus and its surroundings the potential for even greater longevity.
- Places of excellence reinvent themselves periodically to provide better or bigger facilities in keeping with the demands of a global marketplace.
- The Project will proceed in phases. However, this concept has to be ingrained from the outset as a major facility and the first phase therefore has to be large enough to give the vision a credible and practical start

The Project has the potential to deliver at least 12,500 high quality jobs in the wider Ashford area, supporting the achievement of the local authorities' ambition to ensure that Ashford's growth is truly sustainable.

FUNDING

The Parties to the Concordat will work together to assemble the necessary external funding from a range of sources, recognising that the whole Project is likely to cost in excess of £1 billion. The local authorities understand that some of that funding will need to be derived from Imperial College's landholding at Wye.

PROTOCOLS

The general principles upon which the Concordat is founded are collaborative and timely working and the maintenance of good relations to drive the Project forward for the benefit of all Parties.

We recognise that effective working relies heavily upon openness and the sharing of key and often sensitive information and the avoidance of surprises and we commit to this undertaking.

The Concordat is a voluntary agreement and not intended to constitute a legally enforceable contract or to create any rights or obligations which are legally enforceable. It is intended to be binding in honour only and does not prejudice the position of any signatory in relation to their planning powers or other statutory responsibilities.

We recognise the need for regular meetings between us or our nominated representatives. The purpose of these meetings will be to consider strategic issues that require addressing and focus on actions which will be executed promptly to move the Project forward in line with our agreed timetable. Should conflicting interests or issues arise, these will be aired promptly and discussed openly to seek swift resolution where possible.

We will both individually and collectively work together to promote the benefits achievable through the successful outcome of this Project.

Paul Clokie
Leader Ashford Borough Council

Paul Carter
Leader Kent County Council

Sir Richard Sykes
Rector Imperial College London

Date:

Date:

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