

Strategic Collaboration Agreement

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Between Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) and Imperial College London (Imperial)

DEFINITIONS

Assets - facilities, accommodation, equipment, spaces.

Resources – project or programme funding, capital funding and staffing.

Inward Investment – the process of attracting national or international businesses to establish or expand their operations in the OPDC area and to secure future jobs and inclusive economic growth.

STEMB – Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Business.

1. Parties

1.1 Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC), a Mayoral Development Corporation established under the Localism Act 2011.

1.2 Imperial College London, a higher education institution and exempt charity whose principal charitable objects concern education, research and knowledge exchange ("Imperial").

2. Non-Binding Effect and non-fetter

2.1 This agreement is entered into in good faith solely to record the parties' shared strategic intentions. It is not intended to be legally binding and does not create a legal relationship or enforceable commitments between the parties. Further, recognising OPDC's status as a Mayoral Development Corporation, the parties agree that nothing contained in or implied by this agreement shall prejudice or affect OPDC's statutory rights, powers, duties and obligations in the exercise of its statutory functions.

2.3 The parties agree to devote an appropriate level of resource to further the ambitions of this agreement but there is no obligation to provide additional resources or assets unless otherwise agreed

3. Intellectual Property

Where the parties determine that intellectual property is involved future project specific IP arrangements will be agreed separately.

4. Strategic Context

OPDC is leading a generationally transformational urban regeneration programme that will deliver a future-facing commercial district with thousands of new jobs and homes.

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OPDC's Regeneration Strategy ('Re-making Old Oak'), its Economic Vision for "industrial innovation" and the Masterplan Framework set out clear ambitions and parameters for change over the coming decades.

WestTech London is Imperial's strategy for developing a thriving and globally competitive innovation ecosystem, anchored by major science and innovation locations.

This presents a significant opportunity to bring together these two ambitions in the OPDC area to anchor a national mission for growth as set out in the government's industrial strategy, as well as putting our partnership at the forefront of delivering key inclusive growth priorities set out in the Mayor of London's Growth Plan.

OPDC and Imperial are well positioned and united in their commitment to drive West London's evolution as a powerhouse for new neighbourhoods, innovation, entrepreneurship and inward investment.

Our shared commitment to the creation of an environment for investment will see our area's profile raised from a local to global scale through successful place-making, a desirable location for businesses to locate and grow, driving entrepreneurship and business viability in the knowledge-economy and inclusive growth.

In addition, the partnership can enable to development of connections to established and emerging innovation zones including White City Innovation District, Euston, Barts Life Sciences, as well as the opportunity to exploit new links to the Birmingham Innovation Quarter, Bristol and Oxford, creating corridors of unrivalled connectivity and economic opportunity.

Both organisations are committed to:

- Driving the development and delivery of an innovation-led, knowledge-economy and inclusive growth cluster at Old Oak and the OPDC Opportunity Area;
- Creating thriving new working neighbourhoods through exceptional place-making, creation of jobs alongside the delivery of homes for all;
- Improving local life chances by developing the talent that the economy needs now and in the future.
- Driving collaboration with other universities in West London to further develop the subregion's HEI cluster.

This Agreement recognises that the greatest value from the presence of both organisations in the local area can be realised through deepened strategic and practical alignment. In so doing, the Agreement sets out the shared principles of a strategic collaboration between OPDC and Imperial, leveraging the collective strengths, resources, and assets of both organisations to drive industrial innovation and embed inclusive growth at the core of West London's transformation.

5. OPDC and Imperial's local presence

5.1 OPDC

As the Mayoral Development Corporation for West London, OPDC brings a unique set of statutory powers across 31 hectares of developable land spanning Willesden Junction to North Acton, including land surrounding HS2's new interchange at Old Oak Common. Through its master planning, development, commissioning and convening powers, OPDC's plans for Old Oak will deliver approximately 200,000 sqm of employment and community floorspace, underpinned by a commitment to industrial innovation and approximately 8,500 homes (including affordable housing).

5.2 Imperial

Imperial is a world-leading and world-changing university. Through WestTech London, Imperial will generate thousands of jobs, business growth opportunities, and substantial economic value. Plans for new student accommodation in North Acton, 185,000 sqm of mixed-use growth at One Portal Way, and flexible and affordable spaces for frontier innovators at Victoria Industrial Estate (VIE) will provide vital prototyping and advanced manufacturing facilities for cutting-edge science and innovation.

6. Shared Ambitions

OPDC and Imperial share an ambition to:

6.1 Catalyse

Collaborate to use discovery, innovation and entrepreneurship as catalysts for transformative change across West London.

6.2 Influence

Engaging with stakeholders from public, private, academic and community sectors to foster strategic collaboration, attract and coordinate investment, and deliver initiatives that generate measurable social and economic impact.

6.3 Drive

Collaborate to advance industrial innovation through WestTech London to accelerate innovation and inclusive social and economic impacts

7. Collaboration Principles

The parties share the ambition to:

7.1 Build Cross-Sector Connections

Establish an optimal environment for investment and opportunity creation through the convening of universities, research institutes, SMEs, corporates, local organisations and public bodies to collaborate on addressing innovation and growth challenges.

7.2 Access to the Parties' Facilities and Resources

Where they are deemed to meet the objectives of both parties, collaborate in respect of the use of facilities, accommodation, equipment, spaces and resources across Old Oak and WestTech London to support R&D projects and improve access to innovation infrastructure.

Where the parties determine that a future project or activity requires access to the facilities, accommodation, equipment, spaces or resources of either party, any such access and related terms will be subject to separate agreement between the parties.

7.3 Strengthen Regional Skills and Community Networks

Work with skills hubs, training providers and community anchor organisations to build talent pipelines and ensure innovation benefits residents and businesses.

7.4 Build and Back Collaborative Consortia

Identify and support strong partnerships capable of securing funding for research and innovation at local, national and international levels.

7.5 Create Dynamic Innovation Ecosystems

Use West Tech London as the catalyst to grow communities of innovators around STEM research and manufacturing centres, fostering environments where ideas can rapidly progress from concept to commercialisation in industries from life sciences to film or food to cleantech.

7.6 Align with City and Regional Policy

Alignment with Greater London Authority and local council priorities and programmes, supporting inclusive growth and regional development in West London to ensure that the partnership's collaboration anchors regional and national growth missions.

Areas for collaboration

OPDC and Imperial recognise that their collaboration is most effectively focused on:

- Improved connectivity in the area (e.g. Old Oak to White City, the east-west axis across Old Oak and GWR services stopping at Old Oak Common)
- Ensure sustainable and inclusive growth through the promotion and expansion of the WestTech London ecosystem
- North Acton including the Business Improvement District and wider town centre improvements of shared benefit

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- Meanwhile Uses to activate future development sites or vacant ground floor units for early benefit delivery.
- Support the delivery of programming and activities with local businesses, communities and third sector organisations

Amongst the initiatives that the parties are considering are:

- Infrastructure delivery (e.g. power, gyratory improvements)
- Life Sciences and Innovation Skills Hub @ One Portal Way
- Old Oak innovation cluster

8. Participation and Implementation

The parties agree to:

- Steer, oversee and drive the progress of this Agreement;
- Develop programmes for collaboration and allocation of reasonable resources to support the Agreement.
- Monitor delivery against shared objectives and benefits realised
- Provide a forum for reviewing and identifying specific projects and programme-level collaborations.

The Parties will meet [bi-monthly] and attendees will include:

- OPDC's Development Director
- OPDC's Head of Inclusive Growth
- OPDC staff as required
- Imperial College
- Investment Director
- Chief Investment Officer
- Imperial staff as required


In line with 2.1 above, whilst OPDC has planning policy and decision-making powers, this agreement has no impact on the planning powers of the Local Planning Authority and is not party to the agreement.

9. Amendments to the Agreement

Whilst the parties are collaborating, they agree to remain flexible to changes to this agreement by the mutual written consent of both organisations.

10. Signatures

Signed for and on behalf of Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC):



Dame Karen Buck

Chair, Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

14th May 2026

Signed for and on behalf of Imperial College London:



Professor Hugh Brady

President, Imperial College London

14th May 2026