

# ABOUT UKSPA

## RECOGNISING QUALITY AND EXCELLENCE

If you want your innovation location to be recognised as a quality science park, innovation centre or technology incubator then UKSPA can deliver a number of services to help achieve this.

UKSPA membership demonstrates your role in the national innovation eco-system and demonstrates that the location delivers the specialised services, facilities and support that is required to be recognised as one that is focused on growing innovation in the UK.



### UKSPA ASPECT

ASPECT is the Science Park Evaluation and Checking Tool which was created by the Association to provide a simple tool with which to characterise a Science Park or other innovation location, either for the purposes of an initial assessment of its status (for example by UKSPA when scrutinising applications for membership) or to assist in identifying areas of potential improvement and development (by the Park or Centre Manager).

It uses a set of charts which list a variety of attributes of a location and, for each, a range of possible descriptions of how the candidate park demonstrates those attributes. By choosing the descriptions that most closely describe the circumstances at the candidate park, an overall assessment of the attributes of the park can be derived.

Although a numerical scoring system is included, the profiler is primarily intended as a qualitative assessment tool which builds upon contextual Information to capture key observations about the location which may influence its effectiveness and/or overall success through analysis of the locations governance, policy objectives, the facilities provided and its business support and innovation service.

### UKSPA ASPIRE

ASPIRE is the continuous improvement framework endorsed by UKSPA which has been created by our Science Park Members.

The process enables Managers and their teams to access, adapt, and evolve existing industry best practice with the support of an experienced practitioner. The independence of the practitioner provides an objective view of your operation, facilitates a credible bespoke development plan, and provides an impartial review of progress towards meeting that plan.

ASPIRE provides the Management Team with a bespoke plan for continuous improvement, which has been developed through an accredited process and which may also be used to meet the needs of the various stakeholders of your facility.

ASPIRE also provides the organisation with an opportunity to be recognised for achieving excellence in the innovation ecosystem within which our Members operate.

***“An effective Review will identify issues/opportunities, and consider which are likely to benefit the UKSPA Member through informing the development of strategy, and addressing potential gaps in strategy”***



## How ASPIRE works

ASPIRE is a confidential process conducted in partnership between the participating organisation and an UKSPA Licensed Reviewer.

The process involves an initial in-depth review of key aspects of the organisation, discussion to establish identified key goals, an agreed timetable of follow-up reviews to monitor progress, and an opportunity for the location's progression and success to be recognised.

Reviews and follow up meetings are taken at an agreed pace specific to each participating UKSPA Member. The responsibility is placed on the organisation to take action to achieve agreed goals identified in the initial review. An effective Review will identify issues/opportunities, and consider which are likely to benefit the UKSPA Member through informing the development of strategy, and addressing potential weaknesses or gaps in strategy.



## UKSPA INSPIRE: Incubation Matters

The Inspire Monitoring and Development Process for business incubation is essential for business incubation and other early-stage growth environments such as innovation centre's as well as business incubation activities within science parks.

Based on the national Business Incubation Development Framework (BIDF), it covers 'physical' and 'virtual' activity that provides specialist and targeted business growth support and development to early stage companies.

In addition, the Inspire Monitoring and Development Process provides quality assessments for stakeholders, funders and supporters helping them to identify and then develop better practice leading to the application and public recognition of best practice in business incubation.



## How INSPIRE works

Inspire enables you to identify and develop best practice in your particular environment, city or region, maximise investment in your environment/s, prove the impact of your environment, identify strengths and weaknesses and provides detailed action plans and strategic input to ensure that your business support infrastructure is providing the right environment for sustainable growth and development.

UKSPA, as the national body for business incubation, have launched the Inspire Monitoring and Development Process which benchmarks business incubation against best practice through UKSPA's Business Incubation Development Framework.

The process is straight forward and cost effective. Your environment will be assessed using the nationally and internationally recognised Business Incubation Development Framework; identifying compliance with best practice and measuring and evaluating impact.

## Find out More

UKSPA is a membership based Association providing opportunities for Science Parks, Innovation Centres and Incubators to network, share good practice and pool knowledge and experience to accelerate business growth

More information on all of UKSPA's services can be found at [www.ukspa.org.uk](http://www.ukspa.org.uk)