**Lancashire Innovation and Productivity Board**

**Background**

The Lancashire Innovation Plan is a central theme in achieving an economic development and local industrial strategy for Lancashire focused on solving economic and societal problems. This objective requires a Science & Innovation Board to act as Lancashire’s innovation-related strategic advisory, prioritisation and advocacy body.

**Guiding principles**

* Ambitious long-term aims with a focus on solving societal problems
* Best practice and world-class standards with the aim of validation of measures
* Collaborative approach across sectors, types of organisation and common goals
* Enabling science, applied innovation and investment to drive productivity and achieve strategic economic objectives
* Input supporting the LEP’s Strategic Economic Plan and emerging Local Industrial Strategy

**Purpose**

The aim of the Board is to:

* Monitor progress in achieving the delivery of the Innovation Plan, advise on its evolution and report on progress and key issues to the LEP,
* Communicate and champion Innovation activities and Lancashire’s strategic economic plans with the aim of facilitating strategic networks that foster research, innovation and knowledge exchange to establish Lancashire as an exemplar in contributing to the UK’s competitiveness and productivity,
* Contribute to high-level institutional and corporate support and problem solving to enable the delivery of strategic economic plans in Lancashire,
* Provide advice to the LEP Board on Research, Science & Innovation issues or topics referred to the Board by the LEP and address knowledge gaps within Lancashire that hold back innovation,
* Guide on project development and delivery across institutions to ensure that Lancashire coherently develops research and innovation activities and its competitive advantage in key sectors,
* Contribute to regional, national and international debates on science and innovation to broaden Lancashire’s influence,
* Advise on and approve evaluation measures for the Innovation Plan and activities and where relevant, related aspects of the wider economic development and industrial strategies.

**Structures**

The governance structures will be as follows:

* The Innovation and Productivity Board will be guided by a Steering Group meeting annually with this meeting being part of a regionally important event, drawing on a wide range of input from stakeholders to inform the County’s strategic innovation aims and feedback achievements.
* The Innovation Board will be expected to take detailed advice and guidance from Advisory Working Groups expected to meet six times per year, tasked with actions by the Board under thematic headings or related objectives. Membership of the Working Groups will be decided by the specialist lead member in conjunction with the Chair, LEP Board representative and Innovation Director.

The Board shall consist of up to 14 members and will meet a minimum of four times per year with a minimum of seven members to be in attendance to be quorate. It is advised the Board rotates its’ meeting locations around key sites in the County and occasionally regionally where relevant.

The Board membership will be as follows:

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| Chair | Corporate, strategic and international | Eg BAE Systems, LEP Board Member |
| LEP Board Rep & Deputy Chair | Strategic Econ Devlpt | Eg Pvt/Public mangt / linked to Skills Board? |
| Innovation Director | Cross-partner | Eg HEI Forum |
| LA’s Rep | Senior | Eg LCC |
| UKRI Rep | Regional Director | Eg BEIS / Innovate UK |
| University Reps | PVC/Director level | Each Lancs HEI |
| Research & Science Rep | Cross-partner | Eg LU or STFC or SME |
| Start-up, Micro & SME Rep | Private sector | Eg SME only |
| Thematic – Health & Life-Sciences | Specialist lead | Eg SME, Corporate or HEI |
| Thematic – Energy & Environment | Specialist lead | Eg SME, Corporate or HEI |
| Thematic – Manufacturing & Construction | Specialist lead | Eg SME, Corporate or HEI |
| Thematic – Digital & Creative | Specialist lead | Eg SME only |
| Thematic – Professional & Services | Private sector | Eg Banking |
| A N Other Eg Trade Body | In reserve | Flexible eg EEF |

Membership will be for a two year period but can be extended by joint agreement of the Chair, LEP Board Rep, Innovation Director and the individual concerned. Additional members may be co-opted by joint agreement of the Board Chair, LEP Board rep and Innovation Director to achieve the aims and objectives of the Board. At least four members of the Board should comprise Lancashire registered SMEs and two should comprise large Lancashire sited companies to provide at least six private sector members. Membership of the Board is not remunerated.

Deputies may occasionally attend meetings if members are unable to attend Board meetings, subject to agreement of the Science & Innovation Board Chair. Other observing/presenting members may be invited to specific meetings or on a standing basis by the Chair, LEP Board Rep and Innovation Director; however any such attendees will not be eligible to vote on proposals or constitute part of the quorate requirement.

