



## **LEP – Sub Committee**

### **LEP - Lancashire Innovation Board**

**Private and Confidential: NO**

**Date:** Thursday, 3 March 2022

### **Innovation Observatory Interim Report**

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#### **Executive Summary**

At the meeting the Board will be given an update on progress in relation to the Innovate Lancashire web site by Interact-IT, the web developers commissioned to develop the site. This will be a verbal report on the day supported by a presentation to show a mock-up of the site, its user interface design and functionality and fit with marketing, branding and initiatives for Innovate Lancashire.

#### **Recommendation**

The Board is asked to receive the presentation, consider and comment on the progress to date on the development of the Innovate Lancashire web site.

### **Background and Advice**

In 2021 the Innovation Board requested the development of a web site supported with funding agreed under an LCDL budget for innovation work at Lancashire County Council.

The site is designed to act as a shop window for the delivery of Innovation support in the county and the role of the Innovation Board in facilitating this. Branded as "Innovate Lancashire" the platform will provide details of key support services; a database mapping clusters of innovative companies in the county; features to enable collaboration and feeds to key funding for projects relevant to those clusters.

A database and outline governance policy was developed by the LEP and a design brief drawn up by officers of Lancashire County Council which was then put out to procurement. A shortlist of web developers were interviewed shortly before Christmas leading to the selection of Interact-IT.



The fit of the Innovate Lancashire web platform with the marketing of innovation initiatives will be key and the verbal report will cover exciting new initiatives around promotion and engagement with innovative companies and partners.

A team made up of officers from the Council and LEP meet fortnightly to monitor progress by the web developers and the aim is to launch the site in Spring 2022.

### List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A