



## **LEP – Sub Committee**

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

**Private and Confidential: NO**

**Date:** Thursday, 3 March 2022

### **Innovation Plan Refresh**

(Appendix A – Baseline Report refers)

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#### **Executive Summary**

The LEP Innovation Board, working in partnership with Lancashire County Council, have commissioned Steer Consulting Group to refresh the Lancashire Innovation Plan.

A detailed session will be held at the Innovation Board meeting to report back on the baseline work that has been undertaken, the refreshed econometric data and insights from consultations with stakeholders. The item will also examine alignment between this and unfolding LEP policy and priorities and considering recent Government papers, explore the next stages including some scenarios for smart specialisation.

#### **Recommendation**

The Board is asked to receive the baseline report attached at Appendix 'A' and, through a facilitated workshop, shape the development of the next stages of the Innovation Plan refresh.

## **Background and Advice**

The existing Innovation Plan was produced in 2017 and subsequently the economic landscape has seen the advent of a new UK Government, the impact of Brexit and Covid-19 together with new policies such as the UK Innovation Strategy and the Levelling Up White Paper. At the same time several of the targets set out in the original plan have been delivered, further requiring a refresh of the Plan and deliverables.

This report is the first in a series which will be produced over the period though to late Summer 2022 to help guide the refresh of the Lancashire Innovation Plan (LIP), which was developed originally by Steer Economic Development (Steer-ED) in late



2017/early 2018 and to which the Lancashire Innovation Board has been working since its formation in summer 2020.

The report attached as Appendix 'A' is a 'backwards look' document as the first output of the LIP refresh study. The next output will be a summary draft paper, building on the findings of this document and a further round of 12 consultations with key stakeholders, outlining the scope of 'innovation' for the refreshed LIP. Both documents will feed into the fully refreshed 2022 LIP and the input into this and the process to be taken will be further informed in the workshop with some early feedback from the second round of consultations.

The baseline report seeks to do three things:

1. To summarise the key changes in the socioeconomic context for innovation in Lancashire since the LIP's baseline was developed in 2017;
2. To synthesise a first-round of qualitative feedback gathered from consultees on how and where the LIP might best be refreshed; and
3. To review the practical actions that have been undertaken since 2017/18 to move the LIP from concept to operating reality.

The report draws on three key sources of evidence:

- An updated baseline assessment of Lancashire's socioeconomic context, completed by Lancashire County Council and LEP colleagues, taking account of the dramatic changes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and Brexit, and on longer-term priority shifts to focus on low and zero carbon activities and the increasing digitalisation of industry;
- Twelve one-to-one consultations with key stakeholders in Lancashire's Innovation area, conducted by Steer-ED's senior team members, highlighting what has worked well and what challenges remain in Lancashire to maximise its innovation potential; and
- A line-by-line assessment of the actions proposed in the 2017/18 LIP, completed by Lancashire County Council and LEP colleagues, indicating progress against each action and identifying reasons for progress.

The report is structured into four sections:

- Socioeconomic Context – a headline review of the changing socioeconomic context within which a refreshed LIP will need to sit, and to which it should respond proactively.
- Challenges and Opportunities – a summary of the key challenges facing Lancashire in maximising innovation, and the potential new opportunities to be capitalised on by a refreshed LIP;



- A review of the 2017/18 LIP- observations on the relevance and successes of the 2017/18 LIP's content, delivery, and governance; and
- Implications and Priorities – a concluding chapter highlighting the important conclusions from four years of the 2017/18 LIP, recommending the priorities for the refreshed LIP.

### List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate
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