

Private and Confidential

LEP - Lancashire Innovation Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 3rd March, 2022 at 10.30 am in the Arthur Suite, The Exchange, County Hall, Preston.

Present:

Claire Whelan - Chair

Graham Baldwin*	Rick Holland
Melissa Conlon	Mike Kenny*
Jane Dalton	Judson Smythe
Gaynor Dykes*	Matthew Spinks*
Dion Williams	

*Indicates that the individual dialled into the meeting via MS Teams.

In Attendance:

Sarah Kemp, Chief Executive, Lancashire Enterprise Partnership.
Andy Walker, Head of Business Growth, Business and Innovation, Economic Development, Lancashire County Council.
Matt Wright, Lancashire Universities Innovation Manager, Business and Innovation, Economic Development, Lancashire County Council.
Vanessa Robinson-Hoy Senior Project Officer, Business and Innovation, Economic Development Lancashire County Council.
Mike Neville, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Lancashire County Council.

Presenters:

Darren Bentham, Managing Director, Interact-IT
Simon Pringle, Rob Macnee and David Mack-Smith, Steer Consultants.

1. Welcome and apologies

Ms Whelan welcomed everyone and informed the Board that she would be chairing the meeting as Mr Baldwin was currently self-isolating, though he had been able to join the meeting remotely.

Apologies for absence were received from Jane Binnion, Lindsay Roche and Natalie Jones.

2. Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were made at this point in the meeting.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Mr Neville confirmed that the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board on 23rd November 2021 had formally approved the appointment of Mr M Spinks and Mr M Kenny as members of the Innovation Board.

Mr Wright reported that the Innovate UK event to promote clusters in Lancashire/Cumbria had been a success and Mr Hollard agreed to produce a briefing paper for circulation to Board members outside of the meeting.

Resolved:

1. Mr Hollard produce a briefing paper on the Innovate UK event to promote clusters in Lancashire/Cumbria and send it to Mr Neville for circulation to Board members outside of the meeting.
2. That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th November 2021 are confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

4. Innovation Observatory Interim Report

The Board received an update report on progress to date regarding the development of the Innovate Lancashire web site. Darren Bentham from Interact-IT also gave a demonstration of the user interface design, functionality and fit with marketing, branding and initiatives for Innovate Lancashire.

Following the demonstration Board members discussed the content and colour scheme for the website and it was suggested that consideration be given to the inclusion of additional alternative data sources. It was noted that the site currently did not refer to Cyber or Aerospace and it was proposed that the Homepage of the website focus of 2 or 3 key elements.

Vanessa Robinson-Hoy, the Senior Project Officer for Business and Innovation, updated the Board on the Lancashire Innovate Challenge, a 'Dragons Den' style competition open to any size of business/entrepreneur that would provide funding for an innovative idea/project in Lancashire.

Resolved:

1. That the views of the Board be taken into consideration during further development of the website and that the Board be kept informed of progress.
2. That further information regarding the Lancashire Innovate Challenge be circulated to Board members outside of the meeting.

5. 2022/23 programme of meetings

Mr Neville presented a report on the proposed 2022/23 programme of meetings for the Lancashire Innovation Board. The Board discussed the format of meetings

(face to face, remotely or a combination of the two) and recognised that hybrid meetings would most likely continue.

Resolved: That the 2022/23 programme of meetings, as set out below, is approved with all meetings to be held in The Exchange at County Hall, Preston.

Tuesday 7th June 2022 at 2.00pm
Monday 5th September 2022 at 10.30am
Monday 7th November 2022 at 10.30am
Monday 6th February 2023 at 10.30am

6. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that in accordance with the decision under the previous item the next meeting of the Board would be held at 2.00pm on Tuesday 7th June 2022 in The Exchange at County Hall, Preston.

7. Innovation Plan Refresh

A report was presented which set out the baseline position for the refresh the Lancashire Innovation Plan.

Representatives from Steer Consulting Group gave a presentation on the existing five strategic aims and objectives in the Plan and identified key messages from the report together with a socioeconomic summary of Lancashire (in 2017 and 2021), the North West and United Kingdom.

The Board discussed progress to date against specific actions for each Strategic Aim and in relation to Governance. The productivity gap between Lancashire and surrounding areas, identified Growth Sectors and Lancashire's relative strengths in terms of GVA and employment were also discussed.

The Board then moved into a facilitated workshop with representatives from Steer Consulting Group to discuss the individual Strategic Aims/Objectives and consider the following.

- what was working well and needed to continue?
- what new things needed to be done which were not currently happening?

The Board also noted future milestones such as an update report to the meeting in June 2022, the draft refreshed Innovation Plan to be produced in July 2022 with a final version presented to the Board in September 2022

Resolved:

1. That the baseline report on the Innovation Plan refresh, as set out at Appendix 'A' to the report presented, is noted and that Board members participate in a workshop, facilitated by Steer Consultants, to shape the development of the next stages of the refresh.

2. That the views of Board members from the workshop be taken into consideration by Steer Consultants when further developing the Innovation Plan refresh.

L Sales
Company Secretary