

Potential UKSPF Opt-In Projects – Draft pro-forma Version 1 (04.05.22)

Project Title		Business & Community Innovation Programme
Lead Organisation(s)		Lancashire Universities & Partners
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Project Description / Offer  (max 500 words)  Specify the challenge/opportunity the project is intending to address and end objective.  Specify how the proposed delivery method and outputs will support the end objective  Identify any innovative actions/approaches being proposed	<p>This transformational Innovation programme will jointly harness the knowledge, expertise and facilities of the Universities and assets across Lancashire, including AMRC(NW), for the benefit of businesses and communities. It will support authorities to build pride of place and improved life chances by supporting local businesses and communities with specialist local provision to innovate and grow, in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* create jobs and cohesion, improve pay and productivity by building on key and emerging industries, capabilities and local strengths</li> <li>* encourage collaboration across sectors to share knowledge and resources to stimulate innovation, entrepreneurialism and growth</li> <li>* increase private sector R&amp;D and targeted support for new-to-firm innovation and technology adoption</li> </ul> <p>The Lancashire Innovation Plan and recent refresh, along with the work of the Innovation Board (bringing together public and private innovation stakeholders) has identified the challenge to increase and grow knowledge intensive innovation driven businesses across all places in the county. It has been shown that RD&amp;I Investment significantly increases productivity, pay and growth in local economies.</p> <p>This single innovation programme draws together all the universities and key partners into a simple to access expert knowledge exchange resource for businesses, delivered through local hubs.</p> <p>This will target four innovation Missions designed to harness growth and technology sector opportunities relevant to local areas in Lancashire and utilise an agreed menu of innovation services to take a business through its innovation journey.</p> <p>The four Missions are segmented as follows based on evidence from the Innovation Plan on key local capabilities aligned to growth opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy Productive Communities – new health technologies and opportunities that enhance life chances and grow local businesses</li> <li>• Cyber and Digital Industries – building on the once in a generation cybersecurity opportunities/investments (National Cyber Force) and high growth digital firms and technologies</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy, Low Carbon &amp; Sustainable Technologies – linking to local sector strengths and harnessing knowledge, research and technology to accelerate cleantech products, processes and services</li> <li>• Future Mobility &amp; Manufacturing – building on opportunities in mobility sectors such as aerospace and automotive as well as through electronic and new materials, to harness future ways of working, technologies and markets</li> </ul> <p>The Innovation Missions will be led by the relevant Lead Universities working jointly to pool their knowledge and facilities, along with partners including AMRC(NW). It will include agreed innovation services for each stage a participating company is at on their journey from start-up to growth and scale-up. The specialist services delivered locally will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ideation &amp; Intellectual Property</li> <li>• Leadership Peer Networks</li> <li>• Productivity Workshops</li> <li>• Tech Investment Readiness</li> <li>• Expert Science Support</li> <li>• R&amp;D Placements up to PhD level (utilising student and graduate talent and aiding in retention)</li> <li>• Laboratory &amp; Facility Access</li> <li>• Tech Angel Accelerator</li> <li>• Supply Chain Digital Demonstrator</li> </ul> <p>The programme will increase the number of new innovative businesses, products and technologies, increase knowledge transfer and technology adoption, productivity and investment. Making for higher pay and life chances in local communities.</p> <p>This approach is itself innovative as it draws together all partners and assets into a single leading innovation offering, an easy to access and navigate innovation and technology programme that maximises impacts for businesses and places.</p>
<p>Additionality / Added Value</p> <p>Links to existing provision</p> <p>Measurable Resource additional to UKSPF / local match</p>	<p>This programme will be a first in offering a combined innovation package specifically designed to maximise the best elements the Universities and partners have developed and tested with SMEs and the needs of the sectors and localities.</p> <p>It builds from the existing innovation eco-system, optimises it, reduces overheads and delivers it locally, offering to work with districts to co-design to suit their geography and partners. That will include delivery through partner hubs and outlets such as Colleges, specialist</p>

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<p>(max 250)</p>	<p>institutions and assets, as well as incubators and where possible town centre outlets.</p> <p>The universities are in a position to offer significant and meaningful match funding that can be maximised through participation across the districts and which will further stimulate private sector investment and lever impact. This can also include in kind for example where access to facilities can incorporate x amount of hrs free or at discount.</p> <p>In addition, the comprehensive range of partners (most represented in the established Innovation Board) include those developing Place based programmes, such as the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and Innovate UK (IUK), so suitable further funding could be aligned to the programme as they come on stream, enabling strong leverage and benefits to localities.</p>
<p>UKSPF Interventions Delivered</p> <p>(reference <a href="#">UKSPF Interventions List</a>)</p>	<p>The Innovation programme will target the following relevant interventions drawn from the business support and innovation strand of UKSPF:</p> <p>E18: Made Smarter Adoption: expert advice, grants, leadership, new technologies, lever investment</p> <p>E19: Increasing investment in R&amp;D; diffusion of innovation knowledge; commercialisation of ideas, collaboration</p> <p>E21: Funding for the development/support of appropriate innovation infrastructure at local level.</p> <p>E22: Investing/unlocking enterprise infrastructure and employment/innovation site development projects.</p> <p>E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems, and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks.</p> <p>E24: Funding for new and improvements to existing training hubs, business support offers, ‘incubators’ and ‘accelerators’</p> <p>E26: Support for growing the local social economy - community businesses, cooperatives, social enterprises.</p> <p>E27: Funding to develop angel investor networks nationwide.</p> <p>E29: Supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment whilst growing the local economy.</p> <p>E30: drive employment growth, particularly in areas of higher unemployment.</p>
<p>UKSPF Outputs Delivered</p> <p>(reference <a href="#">UKSPF List of Outputs</a>)</p>	<p>The Innovation programme and its services will deliver the following outputs as set out in the UKSPF guidance relevant to the interventions and programme objectives we have described:</p> <p>New to firm products</p> <p>New to market products</p>

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	<p>New Businesses  New Knowledge Transfer  Improved Connectivity  Nos of Firms adopting new technology  Nos engaged in Knowledge Exchange  Nos of firms receiving grants  Nos of firms receiving support  Nos of firms attending sessions  Increased productivity  Increased investment  Jobs created  Greenhouse gas reductions</p> <p>At this stage it is not possible to quantify exact numbers against each output until allocations are agreed and details co-designed with participating authorities.</p>
Indicative viable project size and cost per local authority	<p>The Government guidelines for SPF set out three core strands to the programme. Business support is one third of the programme. Given the ground breaking offering from this programme involving major partners across the spectrum of innovation and business support in the community, it presents the opportunity for major transfer of expertise and impact on the local economy. <b>The total cost of the programme to deliver is £12M</b> which would be apportioned as a % of the SPF allocation for each district. Institutional match funding could be considered in addition to the SPF at a level to be determined.</p> <p>To give a sense of scale, presently, the universities across Lancashire (Edge Hill, UCLan and Lancashire) deliver business collaboration innovation programmes <b>worth ~£5M of grant (predominately European Structural and Investment Funds – ESIF ) and significant institutional match funding annually.</b></p>
Proportion of budget spent of delivery versus other overheads	<p>By delivering as one comprehensive programme it will be possible to significantly reduce overheads. By working together and enabling full participation the programme can be lean and highly impactful, concentrating benefits to businesses and the community.</p> <p>A <b>minimum</b> overhead rate of 25% would be consistent with those applied to ESIF Priority 1 Research and Innovation Programmes and projects funded through Horizon Europe. – the EU funding programme for research and innovation.</p>
Indicative Budget Per Authority	
9/22 - 3/23	£1M
4/23 – 3/24	£6M
4/24 – 3/25	£5M

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Scalability Issues (Minimum viable scale)	<p>Innovation is a collaborative venture sharing knowledge and expertise and is best maximised across Places along with local engagement at hubs or outlets where sectors can catalyse innovation.</p> <p>This programme would best operate across the whole of Lancashire to harness that dynamism and share those opportunities. We believe the minimum viable scale would be 80% of lead authorities but this would be very much sub-optimal for all places.</p>
Other Comments Who will deliver (partners ?)	<p>Guided and steered by the Innovation Board, the partners (many of whom are members of the Board) are proposed to include:</p> <p>Innovate UK, UKRI, Lancaster University, UCLan, Edge Hill University, AMRC(NW), Boost, NWBLT, LCC, Lancashire Colleges Consortium, BAE Systems, National Cyber Force, Westinghouse, NW Space Cluster, University of Cumbria.</p>

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Deadline 12 noon Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022