



LEP – Sub Committee

LEP - Lancashire Innovation Board

Private and Confidential: No

Date: Tuesday, 7 June 2022

Innovation Plan Refresh

(Appendix 'A' refers)

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Executive Summary

Immediately after this Innovation Board a workshop will be held facilitated by Steer Consulting Group to develop the next stage of the Lancashire Innovation Plan refresh.

This follows from the workshop held after the last meeting, which looked at the baseline study and facilitated responses to the following two questions in the context of the Lancashire Innovation Plan Strategic Framework:

- What is working well & needs to continue?
- What new things needs to be done, which are not currently happening?

At the workshop on the 7th June 2022 Steer will report back on further external consultations and sectoral analysis of smart specialisation for Lancashire, addressing:

- Feedback from external consultations on perceptions of innovation in Lancashire
- Implications of external consultations for present framework structure
- Overview of smart specialisation in relation to the LIP refresh
- Smart specialisation in Lancashire - proposals for 'Staying Ahead' strengths and 'New Routeways'
- Next steps, including summary of content for next Innovation Board

Notes from the last workshop are attached at Appendix 'A' to this report.

Recommendation

That Members of the Innovation Board and officers engage with the facilitated workshop after the meeting to further develop the Lancashire Innovation Plan.

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 and more recently geo-political upheaval resulting from the war in Ukraine. 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.

A previous baseline report was presented to the Board, 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.

Two rounds of consultations have been held with stakeholders (the most recent with national stakeholders has not been reported on yet and in addition a review has been undertaken of market trends and policy implications as well as assets existing in the county. Work building on the notes from the last workshop, appended to this report, have been synthesised and will form the basis of a more detailed facilitated session addressing:

- Feedback from external consultations on perceptions of innovation in Lancashire
- Implications of external consultations for present framework structure
- Overview of smart specialisation in relation to the LIP refresh
- Smart specialisation in Lancashire - proposals for 'Staying Ahead' strengths and 'New Routeways'
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As a reminder to members of the Innovation Board, the original baseline report sought 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 approach drew 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.
- 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.

This included 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
N/A		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
N/A		