



LEP – Sub Committee

LEP - Lancashire Innovation Board

Private and Confidential: NO

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Proposed appointment of four new members to the Innovation Board

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Executive Summary

This report refers to nominations for the appointment of new Board members to fill four vacant positions on the Innovation Board

Recommendation

The Board is asked to approve the appointment of the four nominees as set out in the report and recommend them to the LEP Board for approval.

Background and Advice

In June 2020 the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board approved the establishment of an Innovation Board, for the purpose of holding to account the delivery of the innovation activities in the Innovation Plan and to set future strategic innovation priorities.

The Board, which is a committee of the main LEP Board, can consist of a maximum of 15 members and meets four times per year, or subject to business need. The current membership of the Board is set out below.

1 Chair	G Baldwin	Vice Chancellor, UCLan
2 Deputy Chair	C Whelan	Ansuka Group
3 Independent Rep	Vacancy	Vacancy
4 Skills & International Rep	M Conlon	AMRC North West
5 UK RI Rep	R Holland	Regional Manager, Innovate UK



6	Universities Rep	D Williams	Director of R&I, Lancaster University
7	Research & Science Rep	Vacancy	Vacancy
8	Start-up, Micro & SME Rep	Vacancy	Vacancy
9	Strategy & Branding Rep	J Dalton	Groundswell Innovation Ltd
10	Thematic – Health & Life Sciences	M Kenny	Innovation Agency (AHSN)
11	Thematic – Energy & Environment	Vacancy	Vacancy
12	Thematic – Manufacturing & Construction	M Spinx	Victrex Ltd
13	Thematic – Digital, Creative & Marketing	M Gibson	Miralis Data Ltd
14	Thematic – Manufacturing & Construction	J Smythe	MGS Technical Plastics
15	Thematic – Professional & Services	Vacancy	Vacancy

Since the Board met on 5th September 2022, three vacancies have arisen due to changing roles and time commitments of existing Board members. In two of these cases, a recommendation for a new board member was made by the outgoing board member and in other cases recommendations were sought from relevant board members as to potential suitable replacements.

Three new candidates for membership of the Board have therefore been identified and the Chair has had initial discussions with each regarding their suitability, interest, and potential contribution. Some background information about each candidate is presented in this report for consideration by the Board.

In addition, a recommendation is made to reinstate board member Anthony Attard. Mr Attard resigned initially from the board due to his role being linked to his term as a member of the main Lancashire LEP Board which had ended. However, a subsequent conversation between Mr Attard and the Chair identified enthusiasm on both sides for Mr Attard's continual involvement in the board as an independent member. As such, his background information is also presented in this report for consideration by the Board.

Candidates

1 Russell McGrath – Senior Business Development Manager, Sedulo.

Russell has a career of over 20 years assisting SMEs to grow. With a focus on assisting businesses to access the funding required to support growth, Russell has worked in both private and public sector advisory organisations including Business Link Northwest, Manchester Growth Company, Grant Thornton, ABGI, and Sedulo. His roles have included Growth Sector Manager, Access to Finance Manager and Senior BDM R&D Tax Relief team.



Within recent years, Russell has focused on working in Innovation funding at ABGI, the world's largest Innovation Funding specialist and more recently within the R&D Tax Relief team at Sedulo Group. These roles have seen his work focus on High End Engineering, Digital and Technology sectors.

Russell has numerous academic and vocational qualifications including BSc Banking and Finance, MBA and Chartered Institute of Securities and Investments (CISI) Certificate in corporate Finance.

Mr McGrath is put forward for the Professional & Services vacancy.

2 Rory O'Neill – UK Director of Government Affairs and Public Relations, Westinghouse.

Rory O'Neill joined Westinghouse earlier this year. Previously he spent five years on the Executive at Sellafield Ltd as Director for Stakeholder Relations.

With over 20 years' communications experience principally in policy, public affairs and corporate communications, working for in the UK Government, the private sector and as a consultant he has successfully advised on a diverse range of complex and sensitive issues and sectors. Rory lives in London with his partner and three children.

Mr O'Neill is put forward for the Energy & Environment vacancy

3 Rommany Jenkins – Institutions Engagement, Research England.

Research England is a constituent Council of UKRI. Its mission is to create and sustain the conditions for a healthy and dynamic research and knowledge exchange system in the higher education sector. It is discipline agnostic and funds around 140 Higher Education Providers (HEP) at an institutional level through two primary mechanisms - block grant QR funding (primarily to support research) and block grant HEIF funding to support knowledge exchange. It also runs a small number of competitive funding calls and has co-delivered the Strength in Places Fund with Innovate UK. Research England has also been the UKRI strategic lead for Place. With increasing government interest in HEP activities around IP and commercialisation, as well as the broader role of the HEI sector in driving local growth, Research England has a key role to play both in supporting HEI innovation activity and representing that activity to BEIS and other government departments.

Ms Jenkins has worked in the Higher Education sector for six years, both in HEIs (Birmingham City University / University of Birmingham) and UKRI (Arts and Humanities Research Council / Research England). In her current role as Institutions Engagement Manager at Research England she liaises with a range of HEPs across all the regions in England as well regional sector groups including the N8, Yorkshire Universities and Midlands Innovation. She feeds insights gained from the sector into the Research England Executive to help inform funding policy and, where appropriate, include it in briefing requests from the UKRI Executive and BEIS. Ms



Jenkins is also the Knowledge Exchange contact in the Research England Insight and Engagement team and sits on the UKRI Place toolkit working group.

Ms Jenkins is put forward for the Research & Science vacancy.

4 Anthony Attard – Group Chairman, Panaz Holdings Ltd.

Mr Attard is Chairman of Panaz, global suppliers of high-quality decorative fabrics for the hospitality industry. He is also currently a Master of the Furniture Makers Livery. Previously he has held leadership roles within Lancashire including Chair of the Marketing Lancashire Board, and of the Lancashire City of Culture bid. His current roles see him based in London most regularly, and so he will be well positioned to bring UK-wide perspectives to the board, along with his extensive historical knowledge of innovation within Lancashire.

Mr Attard is put forward for Independent vacancy.

5 Vacancy (Start up, Micro and SME)

These appointments will leave one further vacancy on the board. The Chair is currently in discussions to fill this vacancy and a recommendation will be brought to the Board in February 2023.

If appointed the additional Board members will give an 5/9 female to male gender split, a 9/5 private to public (/HEI) split including a variety of types and sizes of organisation, and a broad geographic spread across the County.

Should the Board approve the nominations it will be necessary to seek approval from the LEP Board to formally confirm the appointments.

List of Background Papers

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