VISION: A globally connected, competitive, & resilient innovation ecosystem throughout Lancashire



Grow

Objectives

- Lancs' world-class sector capabilities in AdMan, Materials, & Nuclear are maintained and strengthened
- New opportunity areas in Cyber & Digital are developed in Lancs, building on the county's existing strengths
- Lancs' businesses are increasingly more active in global markets

Actions

- Enable effective clustering activity in support of the National Cyber Force
- Boost spin-offs from Lancs' unis & spin-ins from outside the County
- Improve the availability of attractive, digitally enabled, flexible grow-on office space in city/town centres
- Define detailed Smart Specialisation strategy
- Secure external funding to help strengthen Lancs' innovation ecosystem



Expand

Objectives

- Lancs maximises the benefits from its key innovation assets including AMRC, EIC, HIC, NCF & HE/FE
- Lancs' businesses have an increased commitment to innovation for productivity, growth & resilience
- More of Lancs' businesses are undertaking effective innovation, closing R&D funding the gap to the UK

Actions

- Utilise innovation assets such as AMRC, EIC and HIC to build innovation capacity in Lancs' businesses
- Deliver programmes of effective innovation support to Lancs' SMEs

Connect

Objectives

- Lancs' strong strategic partnerships with neighbouring Manchester & Liverpool, & beyond unlock the benefits of scale in facilitating innovation
- People in Lancs' businesses, unis and public sector organisations have stronger and wider networks of contacts within & across the county's sectors, and beyond Lancs

Actions

- Work with adjacent regions to increase Lancs participation in relevant networking opportunities in/around Manchester and Liverpool
- Establish and resource cluster organisations for identified Smart Specialisation sectors, where these do not already exist
- Develop a start-up pitch events programme for Lancs



Objectives

- Increased awareness within Lancs of local capabilities and opportunities, improving talent retention
- Greater external awareness of Lancs' innovation offer, helping to attract talent and investment
- Lancs has advocates in key national fora & is influential to national policy

Actions

- Develop and resource an innovation marketing strategy for Lancs
- Develop a technology & market foresight observatory to monitor Lancs' evolving capabilities and to ensure that skills development aligns with business/technology need

Action	Activity from LCC & LEP	Activity from other partners	Indicative performance indicators (still being developed)	Named Delivery Lead (TBC)	Board Sponsor
Grow					
1.1 Enable effective clustering activity in support of the National Cyber Force at Samlesbury	General support	TBC (work needed to coordinate existing activity and resource)	# cyber related inward investment # Take up on computing university courses in Lancashire # NCF employees coming from Lancashire		(SME rep?)
1.2 Catalyse spin-offs from Lancashire universities, and 'spin-ins' from outside the County	General support	TBC – Universities to lead outline of action plan	# spin-offs from Lancashire universities		Dion Williams (agreed)
1.3 Improve the availability of attractive, digitally enabled, flexible grow-on office space in city/town centres	 Co-ordinating 2-3 studies per year of each of the 12 districts, to include: Collating existing report, research and intel on potential of assets and ecosystems in that area Fund further research and benchmarking for rent potential Producing a short, standardised dossier (and potentially investment brochure) for all 12 districts 		f average (and median / quartiles) price for sqft office space fprivate investment in property development in each district		Michael Gibson (agreed)
1.4 Define detailed Smart Specialisation strategy	General support	HEIs as decision makers / facilitators (Determining most investable cross over propositions): Collating work done so far by Steer, others, and data (LEP and other)	# employment in smart specialisation areas		(Michael Spinx – my suggestion, not agreed yet). And Dion / university?

1.5 Secure external funding to help strengthen Lancashire's innovation ecosystem. (Partnerships & resource generation)	Partnership development to encourage greater investment from private sector for key programmes alignment of key stakeholder priorities to respond quicker and more effectively to funding calls from government Bid writing	Feed into development of actionable costed development & funding bid plan & map	£ funding secured by Lancashire businesses (Innovate UK & others) £ funding secured in Lancashire for projects & infrastructure	Rick Holland (suggested)
Expand 2.1 Utilise innovation assets such as AMRC, EIC, HIC to build innovation capacity and capability in Lancashire's businesses	(Potential co-ordination between key assets for business facing voucher scheme)	TBC – work needed to record existing activity and resource. (AMRC NW to lead?)	# SMEs engaged with # SMEs supported % businesses innovation active	Melissa Conlon (agreed)
2.2 Deliver programmes of effective innovation support to Lancashire's SMEs	Direct hire of 2 Innovation engagement managers to network and signpost businesses to innovation support landscape		# SMEs engaged with # Made Smarter grants (/ take up of all other support programmes) % businesses innovation active Survey – local awareness of opportunities	Mike Kenny (agreed)

Create 'innovation partnerships' to connect key stakeholders across public and private sector organisations to find Lancashire-based solutions to key challenges.	 Project manage partnership meetings – arrange facilitation, monitor actions, ongoing communication with stakeholders. Aim to tackle 2 core challenges per year 		£ invested into Lancashire- based solutions Survey – perceptions of finding solutions required within Lancashire	
Connect 3.1 Work with adjacent	General support	TBC – action plan to be	£ funding secured by regional	Rory O'Neill
regions to increase Lancashire's participation in relevant networking opportunities in/around Greater Manchester (GM), Liverpool City Region (LCR) and beyond		agreed with all partners. (Universities Innovation Manager to lead?)	partnerships for projects & infrastructure	(suggested)
3.2 Establish and resource cluster organisations for identified Smart Specialisation sectors, where these do not already exist	General support	TBC – Follow on from smart specialisation strategy (1.4), combining university focus with LEP sector groups input.	# employment in smart specialisation areas	Judson Smythe? (suggested) w/ Universities
3.3 Develop a start-up pitch events programme for Lancashire	 Continuation of Innovation Challenge Establishing new pitching events with growing base of interested investors 		# investors attended £ investment raised within 6 months	Russell McGrath (suggested)

Tell				
4.1 Develop and resource an innovation marketing strategy for Lancashire	 Develop new strategy focused on planned PR throughout the year Annual Lancashire Innovation Festival Produce printed and video inward investment collateral 		# inward investment enquiries # mentions in national policy papers # nationally strategic projects landed	Jane Dalton (suggested) / Michael Spinx (requested)
4.2 Develop a technology and market foresight observatory to monitor Lancashire's evolving capabilities and to ensure that skills development aligns with business/technology need	General support (complementing wider data hub plans from LCC and elsewhere)	Working ongoing. Steering group to be established once funding sources more clear.	Survey – partners feeling informed of landscape changes	Rommany Jenkins (suggested)
Administration				
Support and administration	 Procure additional consultant specialist advice where needed Continue ongoing general ecosystem support, connecting, and emerging project development Significant new monitoring and governance support 			