



LEP – Sub Committee

LEP - Lancashire Innovation Board

Private and Confidential: No

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Update on current years' work

Report Author: Maya Ellis,
maya.ellis@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

Update on use of the 2022-23 Lancashire County Council Innovation budget and associated activities (Digital Sector work and Fraser House).

Recommendation

That the updates be noted and any questions raised in the meeting.

Background and Advice

Additional funding (Bids etc)

Several bids are currently either being developed or submitted and awaiting decision. These include:

Innovate UK Launchpad: Co-designing a localised programme to support more targeted engagement to encourage businesses to apply for Innovate UK bids. The Lancashire bid focus is on 'CyberTech' but if through to the first stage, we will have the opportunity to explore and develop this further with Innovate UK.

Research England Development (RED) Fund: An initial small bid to an ongoing fund to explore applications of Lancaster University research to local policy making and solving local challenges.

ESRC, AHRC and InnovateUK call - Developing Local Policy and Innovation Partnerships (LPIP): Lancashire bid focusing on 'Green Energy Futures' – to develop an energy focused 'innovation partnership' across the county, building on Net Zero



focused collaboration work such as the Ethical Data Centres work in Blackpool (supported by Lancaster University).

EPSRC - Place Based Impact Acceleration Fund: Bid being developed to focus on existing clusters (cyber, electech, and potential further groups identified from Smart Specialisation work within Innovation Plan).

Marketing

The Innovation Marketing Manager role has now been in place for over 15 months and has established social media, email, website and podcast presence under the business focused 'Innovate Lancashire' brand, aimed at raising awareness of innovation opportunities and support within the Lancashire area.

All platforms continue to grow in audience, and we are building a strong bank of written and audio content including case studies and Q&As.

As part of the setup work for the new Lancashire Innovation Plan, some workshopping will be done to review the success of this marketing work so far and the brand perception, to ensure it then forms a strong part of the wider overall marketing plan going forward.

Property

Fraser House continues to grow membership and profit, and thus prove demand for co-working and grade A office space in the county. It's reputation also continues to grow and thus increase the perception of Lancashire as a place for dynamic conversations, start-ups and collaboration. This has been driven mainly by a suite of events.

There is a feeling that specific Fraser House events along with some wider ecosystem development work, mainly around the digital sector, is driving momentum within the county for other individuals to develop their own events (hackathons, for example), perhaps encouraged by proof there is an audience for them.

We know a range of similar sites are now being explored and developed out of various funds (Town Deals, Levelling Up funds etc), in towns and cities across the county. Officers continue to build connect to and support the teams developing these to ensure best practice is shared.

We are also strengthening relationships with property developers working in the county, to further build the case for grade A office provision aimed at innovative small businesses.

In future, a more comprehensive report will be developed to report on property development supporting innovation across the county, as part of overall innovation plan reporting.



List of Background Papers

Paper

Date

Contact/Tel

N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A