



LEP – Sub Committee

LEP - Lancashire Innovation Board

Private and Confidential: NO

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Lancashire Innovation Plan - Monitoring Report

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Executive Summary

This report details progress which has been made so far against the 12 priority actions identified in the Lancashire Innovation Plan that was previously approved by the Board.

Recommendation

- (i) The Lancashire Innovation Board are asked to consider progress on the actions as set out in the report, and ask questions as appropriate
- (ii) The Board are asked to approve the planned continuation of work toward the Lancashire Innovation Plan

Background and Advice

Below is a table detailing:

- Progress against the 12 priority actions of the Lancashire Innovation Plan;
- Noted delivery leads and board sponsors;
- Indicative KPIs (which are not yet being monitored).



1.1 Enable effective clustering activity in support of the National Cyber Force at Samlesbury	
<i>Delivery Lead: Andy Walker, LCC</i> <i>Board Sponsors: TBC</i>	
<p>This work is being led by Andy Walker at LCC.</p> <p>Recent good progress on confirming timelines with NCF has given local thematic work and renewed focus and impetus.</p> <p>Additional headroom in the LEPs 23/24 budget is also allowing us to actively pursue and resource work closely aligned with the Innovation Plan specifically the detailed business case and design of the Samlesbury Innovation Hub and renewed work to re-animate the Industrial Collaboration workstream.</p>	<p><i>(Indicative performance indicators – not yet tracked)</i></p> <p># cyber related inward investment</p> <p># Take up on computing university courses in Lancashire</p> <p># NCF employees coming from Lancashire</p>
1.2 Catalyse spin-offs from Lancashire universities, and 'spin-ins' from outside the County	
<i>Delivery Lead: Dion William, Lancaster University</i> <i>Board Sponsors: Dion Williams, Lancaster University</i>	
<p>This action is being led by Dion William on behalf of the Lancashire Universities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pulling together nationally comparable data on university IP commercialisation and student/grad start-ups from the Higher Education Business & Community Interaction Survey (HEBCIS) a statutory annual return to Research England completed by all UK universities, plus relevant data from the Knowledge Exchange Framework; - LU IP Team pulling together latest reports re Uni IP Commercialisation best practice from relevant bodies including Government, Praxis-Auril, etc. There is a new review just announced around University IP commercialisation that we will actively engage with; - Once above compiled we will organise a cross-HE workshop and discussion; - Led with Matt Wright and support from UCLan on a LEP/County focused bid into InnovateUK Launchpad call before Xmas 22 - £7M that if successful could be leveraged against this item. Decision was due before end of 2022 but now we are told 'the spring'; 	<p># spin-offs from Lancashire universities</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LU led a £5M bid recently into the EPSRC's Place Based Impact Acceleration Account call which if successful will also align. This proposal was focused on innovation across the NW Cyber Corridor to support relevant public and private sector organisations large and small in the cyber cluster and aligned regional sectors including aerospace, defence, advanced manufacturing, energy including nuclear, etc. UCLan and Cumbria University are partners on the proposal and if successful we will also engage Edge Hill; - In the last week there was a pre-announcement of a call under Research England's Connecting Capabilities Fund with a focus on university commercialisation – we will review when further details are announced and consider a Lancashire-wide call involving other HE partners; - In aligned good new Lancaster will be signing off on our biggest ever spin-out investment in the next couple of weeks, over £5M. 	
<p>1.3 Improve the availability of attractive, digitally enabled, flexible grow-on office space in city/town centres</p>	
<p><i>Delivery Lead: Maya Ellis, LCC</i> <i>Board Sponsors: Michael Gibson, Fuuse</i></p>	
<p>This action is managed by LCC, with future input from district councils.</p> <p>This is currently being developed ad hoc including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Advancing discussions for a Lancashire Innovation Hub, potentially at Samlesbury with a Preston touch down site too. -Providing expertise around innovation and technology focussed businesses to support proposals for development around Preston Station. -Continuing to optimise the impact of Fraser House Hub in Lancaster and developing a service to share best practice with town deals and other programmes where innovation / collaboration spaces are being developed. <p>Future plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -When additional staff are in place we will begin audits of each local area to assess what collaboration and grow on space is available in each area. This will start with a collation of existing reports, and extend to commissioning new studies if necessary. 	<p>£ average (and median / quartiles) price for sqft office space</p> <p>£private investment in property development in each district</p>
<p>1.4 Define detailed Smart Specialisation strategy</p>	
<p><i>Delivery Lead: StJohn Crean, UCLan</i> <i>Board Sponsors: Dion Williams, LU / Matthew Spinx, Victrex</i></p>	



<p>This work is led by StJohn Crean at the University of Central Lancashire.</p> <p>This work is still being scoped and a more detailed update on plans will come to the September board.</p>	<p># employment in smart specialisation areas</p>
<p>1.5 Secure external funding to help strengthen Lancashire's innovation ecosystem. (Partnerships & resource generation)</p>	
<p><i>Delivery Lead: Maya Ellis, LCC</i> <i>Board Sponsors: Matt Chapman, Innovate UK</i></p>	
<p>This work is led by LCC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A number of bids are in process or awaiting outcome, detailed further in 3.1 and 3.1. -In addition the sector groups of the main LEP board have identified a need for more bid identification and writing resource, so there is a proposal to invest in further resource in this space shortly which will cross into the innovation space also. -We are speaking to Felicity Jones to do some consultancy work around developing a model for how best to support and develop private sponsorship and support for the Innovation Plan work. There is resource within the innovation plan for a staff role to lead on this work. The consultancy will support work the develop exactly what this role needs to look like. -As part of their feasibility work on a potential Innovation Hub at Samesbury, Plexal have also shared best practice on how they have developed their innovation ecosystem work in London, particularly around partnership development. We are not incorporating that expertise into the development of the Innovation Plan. 	<p>£ funding secured by Lancashire businesses (Innovate UK & others)</p> <p>£ funding secured in Lancashire for projects & infrastructure</p>
<p>2.1 Utilise innovation assets such as AMRC, EIC, HIC to build innovation capacity and capability in Lancashire's businesses</p>	
<p><i>Delivery Lead: Melissa Conlon, AMRC NW</i> <i>Board Sponsors: Melissa Conlon, AMRC NW</i></p>	
<p>This work is led by Melissa Conlon at the AMRC NW.</p> <p>This work is still being scoped and a more detailed update on plans will come to the September board.</p>	<p># SMEs engaged with</p> <p># SMEs supported</p> <p>% businesses innovation active</p>
<p>2.2 Deliver programmes of effective innovation support to Lancashire's SMEs</p>	
<p><i>Delivery Lead: Maya Ellis, LCC</i> <i>Board Sponsors: Mike Kenny, Innovation Agency</i></p>	
<p>This work is being led by LCC.</p>	<p># SMEs engaged with</p>



<p>-An initial 'Innovation Engagement Manager' role has been signed off and will be advertised in early June.</p> <p>'Innovate Lancashire' brand is currently sharing best practice and opportunities. We are collating and directing enquiries where we can.</p>	<p># Made Smarter grants (/ take up of all other support programmes)</p> <p>% businesses innovation active</p> <p>Survey – local awareness of opportunities</p>
<p>3.1 Work with adjacent regions to increase Lancashire's participation in relevant networking opportunities in/around Greater Manchester (GM), Liverpool City Region (LCR) and beyond</p>	
<p><i>Delivery Lead: Matt Wright, Lancaster University</i> <i>Board Sponsors: Rory O'Neill, Westinghouse</i></p>	
<p>This work is currently being led by Matt Wright, Head of Regional Partnerships at Lancaster University. If and when the replacement joint Universities Innovation Manager is recruited, they will also support with this work. Recent activity summarised by Matt includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCC/LEP, Plexal, and Lancaster University submitted a bid to IUK for a £7.5M Launchpad. We are still awaiting decision on Launchpads chosen. The theme was to bolster the North West CyberTech corridor offering as per Innovation Plan. • 5 NW Universities have submitted a consortium bid, led by Lancaster, to EPSRC for a Place Based Impact Acceleration Accounts programme of £5M to support researchers into cyber challenges along the Manchester-Lancashire-Cumbria corridor. Next stage will be Panel interviews. • Ongoing actions to develop key links/themes with the two new Cumbria Councils Econ Development Directors to understand their priorities and potential crossover with Lancashire innovation priorities in the context of the region eg around Cyber, Manufacturing, Environmental, Community – all in terms of Place/s. Also with the Cumbria Industrial Solutions Hub. • Participation in the NP11 Innovation Group and to highlight our distinctive strengths around Security & Protection incl Cyber, Advanced Manufacturing, Nuclear etc and the complementary fit with the wider Northern agenda. Needs to be more clarity on their practical actions. • Liaising with Liverpool University around their priorities – Maritime, Life Sciences, Materials, Advanced Manufacturing – and starting to agree how we cross support eg their support for Cyber ambitions where we 	<p>£ funding secured by regional partnerships for projects & infrastructure</p>



<p>are leading and our reciprocal activities alongside any opportunities that require joint bidding eg EPSRC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly short presentation to STFC Daresbury at their Business Breakfast event and had a stand at their University Fair and was on their Innovation & Leadership Panel discussion at the Fair alongside Manchester and Liverpool Uni's, which keeps Lancashire in the regional offering. • Development of the Watchtower Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing Plan, ably led by David Bailey and the NWAA, and this is shaping up to be a detailed piece of work that neatly supports many of the objectives in the Lancashire Innovation Plan which will allow sub-sets of activity and HEI/industry input around areas such as drones; cyber; nuclear; electrification; additive etc in a regional context. • Policy Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering and engage regularly with national leaders in Engineering, attending their London event last month and speaking about innovation work in Lancashire and due to do a presentation to policy professionals in the Autumn – civil servants from DSIT, BEIS etc. <p>Elsewhere:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCC, LEP and Innovation Board colleagues have been attending Climb23 – a new national 2 day investment and innovation conference held in Leeds. Lots of fruitful connections made, particularly to bring more investor attention to Lancashire. • LLC and LEP and private sector colleagues will be attending ScaleUp Institute's (SUI) high impact economic development course; 'Driving UK Economic Growth through Scaleup Ecosystems - a Scale Up Master Class Program for Economic & Innovation Growth Teams,' with ED teams from around the UK. We attended this 5 years ago and is an exceptional networking and learning opportunity for us to build best practice. 	
<p>3.2 Establish and resource cluster organisations for identified Smart Specialisation sectors, where these do not already exist</p>	
<p><i>Delivery Lead: StJohn Crean, UCLan</i> <i>Board Sponsors: Judson Smythe, MSG Plastics / Dion Williams, LU</i></p>	
<p>This work is led by StJohn Crean at the University of Central Lancashire.</p> <p>This work is still being scoped and a more detailed update on plans will come to the September board.</p>	<p># employment in smart specialisation areas</p>



3.3 Develop a start-up pitch events programme for Lancashire

Delivery Lead: Dan Knowles, Northern Reach

Board Sponsors: Russell McGrath, Sedulo

This package of work is led by a partner contracted by LCC (Dan Knowles / Northern Reach) and also worked on by LCC Co-working Lead, Rory Southworth, and our LCC Scale-up and Finance Lead, Amin Vepari.

investors
attended
£ investment
raised within
6 months

The future plans are building on existing ecosystem development work delivered over the last few years.

These are some of the ongoing and planned activities:

- This month we have had Lancashire Tech Summit (part of Highest Point Festival in Lancaster) and then next week Lancashire Tech talks is in Skelmersdale. We also have our Tech Talks next month in Accrington which we are now planning and our next Digital Leaders Networking group which will be in Preston. All of this, alongside the general day to day Ecosystem interaction and management allows us to find potential new early stage tech businesses.
- Northern Reach are in the process of recruiting a Connector who will help us to build an Angel Network. Kevin Sanderson will be joining us for 1 or two days a week in June as he takes early retirement from Handelsbanken. He is specifically tasked with meeting new starts and building our Angel network.
- LCC are in the process of recruiting more co-working support at Fraser House to free up Rory to do more programme development.
- Northern Reach and the LCC team have been working to put together a Tender Bid for the Barclays Ecosystem Partnership programme (the replacement for Tech Nation). Feedback from work with investors Maven and Praetura has told us that we don't have enough Angel Investors in the county, and those we do have aren't investment ready. The funding bid will seek to help us fill these gaps.
- We currently have a session booked in for the 15th of June for our first official pitching event at Fraser House. The format of this will probably evolve quite quickly over time now, as many more partners are starting to show interest, but we want to get moving with something before we get too far into the year.

4.1 Develop and resource an innovation marketing strategy for Lancashire

Delivery Lead: Maya Ellis

Board Sponsors: Matthew Spinx, Victrex / Jane Dalton, Groundswell Innovation



<p>This work is being led by LCC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A public facing Lancashire Innovation Plan document is being finalised (a proof to be shared in person at the board meeting), and a launch planned for late June. -A PR plan will be developed with an external team, to start sharing key success stories and progress of the Innovation Plan, regionally and nationally. -Looking to work with The Behavioural Insights Team (UK Government's 'nudge unit') to help us map internal and external audiences to decide better who to target and how. -Promotion of Innovate Lancashire continues apace online and on social media. -The 4th Lancashire Innovation Festival will take place on Friday 13th October. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # inward investment enquiries # mentions in national policy papers # nationally strategic projects landed
<p>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</p>	
<p><i>Delivery Lead: Joe Mount, LCC</i> <i>Board Sponsors: Rommany Jenkins, Research England</i></p>	
<p>There are number of pieces of work in this space that we are currently working on aligning. This includes a project being developed by Lancaster University, monitoring and dashboard work being developed as part of Lancashire 2050, and the monitoring work being developed for the Innovation Plan.</p> <p>Future work is likely to begin with a refining and an alignment of these projects, following by a more sophisticated development of higher level foresight work.</p>	<p>Survey – partners feeling informed of landscape changes</p>
<p>Support and administration</p>	
<p>Advertisements due in early June for the following roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Innovation Engagement Manager -Monitoring and Project Co-ordination Officer -Co-Working Manager (0.6FTE) -Senior Project Officer (Maternity Cover) (0.6FTE) <p>Jobs still in development but likely to be hired in September:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Innovation Engagement Manager (2nd role) -Partnerships Manager -Catalyst Project Manager <p>Note: This reporting structure will evolve once we hire our Monitoring officer.</p>	



List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

None