

LEP - Lancashire Innovation Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 5th June 2023 at 10.30 am in Committee Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston

Present

Professor G Baldwin (Chairman)

Mr T Attard OBE DL
Ms R Jenkins
Mr M Kenny
Mr R McGrath

Mr R O'Neill
Mr J Smythe
Mr M Spinks
Mr D Williams

Observers

Matt Chapman

In Attendance

Maya Ellis, Innovation and Digital Lead, Lancashire County Council
Hannah Lysons, Democratic Services Officer, Lancashire County Council
Mike Neville, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Lancashire County Council
Dr Michele Lawty-Jones, Director, Lancashire Skills Hub
Alastair O, NCF

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were presented from Melissa Conlon, Jane Dalton and Michael Gibson.

Apologies had also been received from Simon Lawrence, Director of Growth and Regeneration, Lancashire County Council, who was due to present Item 6 of the Agenda. Therefore this Item was not discussed, and will be brought to the Board at a future meeting.

2. Declaration of Interests

None

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 06 February 2023

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 06 February 2023 were approved as an accurate record and were signed by the chair.

4. Chairs Welcome/Board Members' Update

The Chair invited Board members to introduce themselves, as new Board members had joined since the last meeting.

A verbal update was provided on the work that Board members were undertaking with relation to the Lancashire Innovation Plan.

Resolved: The Lancashire Innovation Board members noted the verbal updates provided.

5. Proposed appointment of a new member to the Innovation Board

Maya Ellis, Innovation and Digital Lead, Lancashire County Council, presented a report (circulated) which outlined the proposed appointment of a new Board member to the vacant position of UK Wide Research and Innovation.

Due to a change in roles internally at InnovateUK, former Board member Rick Holland had passed his duties on to Matt Chapman who was recommended to fill the position on the Innovation Board. Following a meeting between the nominee, the Chair, and Lead Officer, it has been proposed that the Board accept the nomination and recommend them to the LEP Board for approval.

Resolved: The Lancashire Innovation Board approved the appointment of Matt Chapman to the vacant position, and agreed to recommend the appointment to the LEP Board for approval.

7. Update from the Skills Hub

Dr Michele Lawty-Jones, Director of Lancashire Skills Hub, gave a verbal update on the work of the Skills Hub in relation to Lancashire 2050.

It was reported to the Board that a joint session between the Lancashire Skills and Employment Board and the Lancashire Innovation Board had been arranged in order for the two entities to come together and discuss the overlapping themes in relation to Lancashire 2050. Board members were encouraged to attend and were reminded that invitations had been sent out.

Michele was thanked for the update, and the Board considered and discussed the impact on the Lancashire Innovation Plan and considered how to positively affect skills shortages and issues, such as graduate retention. The Board further discussed the absence of innovation related target within the Lancashire 2050 plan and considered how to address those absences.

Resolved: The Board noted the verbal update provided.

8. Update on the National Cyber Force (NCF)

A verbal update was given to the Board by Alastair O, a representative from the National Cyber Force (NCF) on the progress being made to bring the NCF to Lancashire.

The Board discussed talent retention in line with the NCF's recruitment plans and whether something could be put in place to ensure talent was attracted and retained within Lancashire and that long recruitment processes did not hinder talent acquisition.

Alastair was thanked for the update, and it was acknowledged that the plans for the NCF presented challenges and opportunities for members of the Board to consider over the coming years.

Resolved: The Board noted the verbal updated provided.

9. Lancashire Innovation Plan Update/Progress Report

Maya Ellis presented a report on a proposal for Board members to take ownership of the implementation of the Lancashire Innovation Plan and to provide updates on their actions as appropriate.

It was noted that every action now has at least one Board sponsor, and that there had been assigned Delivery Leads for each action.

A draft version of the public facing Innovation Plan document was presented to the Board for comments. The Board were generally happy with the document as presented and gave no significant comments for improvements. The planned launch for the document is set for September 2023, and the Board discussed how best to approach the launch given Lancashire 2050 and devolution conversations.

Resolved: The Lancashire Innovation Board:

- (i) Noted the report as presented, and
- (ii) Approved the planned continuation of work toward the Lancashire Innovation Plan

10. AOB

None

11. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved: The next meeting of the Board is scheduled to be held at 10.30am on the 4th September 2023 in Committee Room 'C' The Duke of Lancaster Room at County Hall, Preston.