



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).



<p>1.1 Enable effective clustering activity in support of the National Cyber Force at Samlesbury</p>	
<p><i>Delivery Lead: Andy Walker, LCC</i> <i>Board Sponsors: TBC</i></p>	
<p>This work is being led by Andy Walker at LCC.</p> <p>(No update since May 23): <i>Recent good progress on confirming timelines with NCF has given local thematic work and renewed focus and impetus. 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.</i></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>
<p>1.2 Catalyse spin-offs from Lancashire universities, and 'spin-ins' from outside the County</p>	
<p><i>Delivery Lead: Dion William, Lancaster University</i> <i>Board Sponsors: Dion Williams, Lancaster University</i></p>	
<p><i>This action is being led by Dion William on behalf of the Lancashire Universities</i></p> <p>(No update since May 23):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>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;</i> - <i>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;</i> - <i>Once above compiled we will organise a cross-HE workshop and discussion;</i> - <i>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</i> 	<p># spin-offs from Lancashire universities</p>



<p><i>leveraged against this item. Decision was due before end of 2022 but now we are told ‘the spring’;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>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;</i> - <i>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;</i> - <i>In aligned good new Lancaster will be signing off on our biggest ever spin-out investment in the next couple of weeks, over £5M.</i> 	
<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>(No update since May 23): <i>This is currently being developed add hoc including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -<i>Advancing discussions for a Lancashire Innovation Hub, potentially at Samlesbury with a Preston touch down site too.</i> -<i>Providing expertise around innovation and technology focussed businesses to support proposals for development around Preston Station.</i> -<i>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.</i> <p><i>Future plans:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -<i>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.</i> 	<p>£ average (and median / quartiles) price for sqft office space</p> <p>£private investment in property development in each district</p>



1.4 Define detailed Smart Specialisation strategy	
<i>Delivery Lead: StJohn Crean, UCLan</i>	
<i>Board Sponsors: Dion Williams, LU / Matthew Spinx, Victrex</i>	
<p>This work is led by StJohn Crean at the University of Central Lancashire.</p> <p>Matthew Guest at UCLan and Maya Ellis have begun scoping this work. We are looking at building on Steer's initial Smart Specialisation paper to create a fairly simple but powerful approach to prioritising smart specialisation in Lancashire. We will aim to bring a paper on this to the November board, but in principle it looks like agreeing 3-5 key smart specialisation areas and then getting agreement from all major delivery programmes to prioritise these when making decisions about project development. For example, they may form an additional criteria / priority for future skills bootcamp calls, and also we may prioritise these areas for creating collateral within our marketing strategy.</p>	# employment in smart specialisation areas
1.5 Secure external funding to help strengthen Lancashire's innovation ecosystem. (Partnerships & resource generation)	
<i>Delivery Lead: Maya Ellis, LCC</i>	
<i>Board Sponsors: Matt Chapman, Innovate UK</i>	
<p>This work is led by LCC.</p> <p>(No update since May)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A number of bids are in process or awaiting outcome, detailed further in 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 Samlesbury, Plexal have also shared best practice on how they have developed their innovation ecosystem work in London, particularly around partnership development. We are now 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>
2.1 Utilise innovation assets such as AMRC, EIC, HIC to build innovation capacity and capability in Lancashire's businesses	



<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 November 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>(No update since May).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -An initial 'Innovation Engagement Manager' role has been signed off and will be advertised in September. -The 'Innovate Lancashire' brand is currently sharing best practice and opportunities. We are collating and directing enquiries where we can. 	<p># SMEs engaged with</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"> • The Lancs £7.5M Cybertech IUK Launchpad proposal has still not been decided, a decision was expected at the commencement of the year and if successful to commence in Spring 2023. We have been advised by IUK, after repeated requests, that they cannot give any further information at this time. At the time of writing there is still no further news. • 5 NW Universities 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. This bid was not 	<p>£ funding secured by regional partnerships for projects & infrastructure</p>



<p>successful. Manchester won the only such bid in the NW for a materials related project. A further round is due to which we can apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison with NP11 who have commissioned Cambridge Econometrics (who are also doing work for DSIT on key/priority clusters) to do cluster case studies in the North. A number of overlapping complementary ecosystems are evident with data showing the importance of defence and security capabilities in Lancashire which also fits with opportunities around Cyber. Next stage is to arrange interviews (Aug/Sept) for the consultants to develop the case study content. • A £2.3M joint bid (LU, UCLan, UoM, UoL) to the Connected Capabilities Fund to develop spin-out and IP capabilities around Cyber opportunities across key sectors such as aerospace and nuclear, was submitted and we are awaiting news on whether we have been successful. The involvement of Liverpool built on discussions to date about joint work as reported in last period. Our links to MIT also enabled us to build in their input to international best practice on spin-outs and ensure our relationship with them is active. • On-going input to the NW Aerospace Alliance (NWAA) led Watchtower Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing Plan, this is providing the evidence base and priorities for manufacturing and engineering including the importance of Advanced Materials Processing and Net Zero solutions, with detailed information about key challenges and opportunities. The NWAA are expected to publish the report in the Autumn which will inform work and underpin the case for further bids that tie across the regions supply chain and stakeholders. 	
<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></p>	
<p><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>As this is a second stage action after action 1.4 above, please see that action for initial updates.</p>	<p># employment in smart specialisation areas</p>
<p>3.3 Develop a start-up pitch events programme for Lancashire</p>	
<p><i>Delivery Lead: Dan Knowles, Northern Reach</i></p>	
<p><i>Board Sponsors: Russell McGrath, Sedulo</i></p>	
<p>This package of work is led by a partner contracted by LCC (Dan Knowles / Northern Reach) and also worked on by</p>	<p># investors attended</p>



<p>LCC Co-working Lead, Rory Southworth, and our LCC Scale-up and Finance Lead, Amin Vepari.</p> <p>Update from Dan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Success of the FHundED program, we had about 30 startups in attendance from across the county. We are currently working with Rory to get plenty of founders to the first learning day on the 26th of September • I've taken on Lekhana and she has hit the ground running. Her focus is fully on Lancashire Digital Hub. She has organised our tech talks for September (Burnley), October (Leyland) and November (Blackpool). She is also reaching out to founders to get them involved in FHundED • I have active conversations this month with West Lancs Borough and Burnley around supporting them to build their own micro-ecosystem. Lekhana will also be focussing in particular on Preston. • In the pipeline for New Year - FHundED in either Burnley or Chorley. Also looking to deliver 3 x Business Model Canvas/Startup Workshops in 2024. I have found a delivery partner who we will contract for this. <p>Update from Rory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched FHundED with 70 people attending and Funds from Edinburgh, Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester • Brought Funding/Investment readiness activity to Lancaster by Praetura and Natwest (delivering) • Brought in lots of enquiries from Manchester based Funds about Lancashire investment opportunities • Lancashire was included as a place in the latest Dealmakers article from Preseed Now 	<p>£ investment raised within 6 months</p>
<p>4.1 Develop and resource an innovation marketing strategy for Lancashire</p>	
<p><i>Delivery Lead: Maya Ellis</i></p>	
<p><i>Board Sponsors: Matthew Spinx, Victrex / Jane Dalton, Groundswell Innovation</i></p>	
<p>This work is being led by LCC.</p> <p>-A National launch of the innovation plan is due in the House of Commons on 9th November but details still TBC.</p> <p>-A public facing Lancashire Innovation Plan document was launched at Fraser House, Lancaster in June. A press</p>	<p># inward investment enquiries</p> <p># mentions in national policy papers</p> <p># nationally strategic</p>



<p>release followed which got extensive local and some national coverage.</p> <p>-We have appointed Richard Bon PR to develop our external PR & Marketing strategy. Some initial meetings have been had to scope the work, and a presentation will be made at this September board meeting with some initial proposals and questions.</p> <p>-We have received proposal from The Behavioural Insights Team (UK Government's 'nudge unit') and will review these shortly. We are also now exploring some initial work in this space with Innovation support company, Plexal.</p> <p>-Promotion of Innovate Lancashire continues apace online and on social media.</p> <p>-The 4th Lancashire Innovation Festival will take place on Friday 13th October.</p>	<p>projects landed</p>
<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>Sept 23 update: Work is ongoing with the theme groups of 2050 to highlight and identify key dynamics (metrics) which best capture the essence of the individual priorities within each theme. The intention is to create a state of the county report in the winter, and create a logic model to formalise linkages and co-dependencies between theme groups, and scope areas of shared working.</p> <p><i>May 23 update:</i> <i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	<p>Survey – partners feeling informed of landscape changes</p>
<p>Support and administration</p>	



A regular monthly meeting between public sector, universities, and UK Govt recently came to an end because of government cuts. UCLan have agree to pick up administration for this meeting, and after discussions with LCC, we are proposing to combine this meeting with a proposal in the original Lancashire Innovation Plan report, to hold regular operational Innovation Plan meetings. We would propose this includes all the existing members of the original meeting, plus the delivery leads for the Innovation Plan actions.

Interviews and offer have been made for the Co-Working Manager (0.6FTE) role, allowing the Community Manager to be freed up for more start-up pitching development work.

Advertisements due in September for the following roles:

- Innovation Engagement Manager
- Monitoring and Project Co-ordination Officer
- Senior Project Officer (Maternity Cover) (0.6FTE)
- Marketing Officer (rehire following the resignation of Gill Millington to move to Growth Lancashire as Business Support Lead)

Jobs still in development but likely to be hired in December:

- Innovation Engagement Manager (2nd role)
- Partnerships Manager
- Catalyst Project Manager

Note: This reporting structure will evolve once we hire our Monitoring officer.

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List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		



Lancashire
Enterprise Partnership

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

None