



## Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Limited

**Private and Confidential: NO**

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### **Establishment of LEP Innovation Board**

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#### **Executive Summary**

This report is regarding the creation of a new LEP Committee – the LEP Innovation Board - has been agreed for the purpose of holding to account the delivery of Innovation activities in the Innovation Plan and to set future strategic innovation priorities. This report is to present Terms of Reference and Membership for board approval, along with initial details of its first meeting, and a request for a Chair and Deputy-Chair to be nominated by the LEP Board.

#### **Recommendation**

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board are asked to:

- (i) Approve that the Innovation Board be established as a LEP Committee with immediate effect.
- (ii) To approve the Terms of Reference and the Membership, with the Company Secretary authorised to make any minor amendments to style and formatting and amend the Assurance Framework to incorporate accordingly, and
- (iii) Nominate two LEP Directors to be Chair and Deputy Chair of the Innovation Board

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 The emerging LEP Strategic Framework sets out the central enabling role for Innovation as follows, *“Innovation cuts right across the whole Framework and is essential if Lancashire is to boost productivity and relative economic performance”*.
- 1.2 The Lancashire Innovation Plan, launched in 2018, sets out the basis of this enabling role, *“to provide a practical analysis of the economic role and contribution of innovation in the County’s economy, with an informed assessment of how Lancashire’s innovation resources – actual and latent – can*



*be better led and deployed to drive productivity, industrial resilience and sectoral agility in the County's economy".*

- 1.3 The National Industrial Strategy and the emerging Local Industrial Strategy also place Innovation at the core of growth and productivity by building on the Grand Challenges. Taken together the key pillars of the Lancashire economy are defined through the above plans and feature key sectors such as Clean Energy, Advanced Manufacturing, Digital and Health and the delivery plan requires each pillar and enabler to have strategies that are driven by business and supported in their goals and tasks.

## **2. Context & Objectives**

- 2.1 The Strategic Economic Plan guided the overall Growth Deals, which have invested in a number of innovation assets across Lancashire. These assets are set to make a real change to the County, and through the new emerging strategic frameworks described above, will require effective guidance and alignment of pillars and capabilities to close the productivity gap and build further opportunities for Lancashire.
- 2.2 These objectives place innovation in a cross cutting, enabling role and require an Innovation Board to act as Lancashire's innovation-related strategic advisory, prioritisation and advocacy body. Its guiding principles should be ambitious and long-term with a focus on solving societal challenges and it should raise Lancashire's international perspective and encourage collaboration across sectors.
- 2.3 Some of the features of delivering the Innovation Plan so far are covered in progress papers provided in the Appendices, with some highlights here as follows:
  - Pilot of the 'Lancashire Technology Accelerator' bringing scaling technology businesses together with leading researchers at Lancaster University – leading to securing a further £1.5m for Lancaster to become one of 4 'University Enterprise Zones' in the country
  - Roll out of the Made Smarter North West pilot in Lancashire, with our county receiving the highest amounts of funding so far which is enabling £2m worth of overall investment and upskilling 162 jobs.
  - Securing BEIS Massachusetts Institute of Technology Regional Entrepreneurship Accelerator Programme (MIT Reap) programme working across three LEPs to define regional comparative advantages and priority actions to improve Innovation Driven Enterprises.

## **3. Purpose**

- 3.1 The remit of the Board is to:



- Monitor progress in achieving the delivery of Innovation in the Strategic Framework and Innovation Plan, advise on its evolution and report on progress and key issues to the LEP Board.
- Provide advice from key stakeholder groups to the LEP Board on Research, Science & Innovation issues or topics referred to it by the LEP and address knowledge gaps within Lancashire that hold back innovation.
- Communicate and champion Innovation activities and Lancashire's strategic economic plans with the aim of leading cross sectoral networks that foster research, innovation and knowledge exchange to establish Lancashire as an exemplar in contributing to the UK's competitiveness and productivity.
- Guide on project development and delivery across institutions to ensure that Lancashire coherently develops research, innovation and commercialisation activities with competitive advantage in key sectors.
- Contribute to regional, national and international debates on innovation to broaden Lancashire's influence and advise on and approve evaluation measures for Innovation activities.

#### **4. Structures**

The governance structures will be as follows:

- The Innovation Board will be a Committee of the main LEP Board and shall consist of up to 15 members and will meet four times per year, or subject to business need.
- The Innovation Board will be supported in delivery by an executive team including the Innovation and Digital Lead at Lancashire County Council / Lancashire LEP and the Lancashire Universities Innovation Manager.
- The Innovation Board will be expected to take detailed advice and guidance from the Executive Officers through Working Groups with clear objectives.
- The Innovation Board will take guidance from an annual public meeting as part of a regionally important Innovation Showcase event, drawing on a wide range of input from stakeholders to inform the County's strategic innovation aims and to feedback its achievements.

#### **5. Membership**

- 5.1 In May 2019 the LEP Board approved the structure to start recruitment for the Innovation Board. Applicants were asked to share their expertise and experience through a CV or LinkedIn profile, and provide a statement on their motivations for wanting to join the board. These applications were then scrutinised based on likelihood to perform well and effectively on a board, and then placed to ensure a diverse spread of backgrounds, industries, organisation size, geographies, genders and other characteristics.
- 5.2 The members recommended are as follows, excluding the Chair and Deputy Chair, which are to be appointed by the LEP Board:

Chair (LEP Board Rep)	TBC	(Corporate & Manufacturing)
Deputy Chair (LEP Board Rep)	TBC	(Corporate & Finance)
Skills & International Rep	Graham Baldwin	Vice Chancellor, UCLan
UKRI Rep	Rick Holland	Regional Manager, Innovate UK
Universities Rep	Dion Williams	Director of R&I, Lancaster University
Research & Science Rep	Natalie Jones	Engineering & Physical Sciences Council
Thematic – Health & Life-Sciences	Lorna Green	Innovation Agency (AHSN)
Thematic – Energy & Environment	Lindsay Roche	Westinghouse Ltd
Thematic – Manufacturing & Construction	Pete Lee	Victrex Ltd
Thematic – Digital, Creative & Marketing	Jane Dalton	Groundswell Innovation Ltd
Thematic – Professional & Services	Gaynor Dykes	Grant Thornton
Start-up, Micro & SME Rep	Jane Binnion	Growing Club Ltd

5.3 At least three members of the Board should comprise Lancashire registered SMEs and two should comprise large Lancashire sited companies to provide at least six private sector members. The board as proposed will provide a 7/7 (50/5) gender split, a 9/5 private to public (/HEI) split including a variety of types and sizes of organisation, and a broad geographic spread across the county.

### **Recommendations and Actions required by board**

We would ask that the LEP board approve the following proposals for next steps for the Lancashire Innovation Board:

- a) Two LEP Board Directors are nominated to join the Innovation Board as Chair and Deputy Chair
- b) The recommended members of the Innovation Board are formally invited and a first board date meeting is set for late July 2020.
- c) The progress on tasks in the Innovation Plan as set out in the Appendices are noted.
- d) The LEP Board are asked to note that the initial key themes of the work programme will focus on:-
  - 1) An update from officers on progress of Innovation Plan so far (programmes, marketing strategy, ambassador strategy)
  - 2) A facilitated review session of key areas of the Innovation Plan to identify refreshed / new / lapsed priorities
  - 3) Input and preparation for first annual Innovation Showcase



- 4) An initial / scoping conversation for evaluation and monitoring of the Innovation Plan

## **Appendices**

- 1) Innovation Plan (NB see pg32-26 for main action plan, and pg37-40 for governance plan);
- 2) Innovation Progress Matrix;
- 3) Terms of Reference for Innovation Board