



LEP – Sub Committee

LEP - Lancashire Innovation Board

Private and Confidential: No

Date: Friday, 19 February 2021

Full Report on Innovation Festival

(Appendices 'A' 'B' and 'C' refer)

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Executive Summary

In accordance with the decision at the last meeting a full report on the 2020 Innovation Festival, addressing achievements, lessons learned and next steps regarding the planning of a 2021 Innovation Festival, is for the information of the Board.

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

- 1) Approve the planning for a 2021 Innovation Festival as set out in Appendix 'A'.
- 2) Seek nominations for an Innovation Board representative on the steering group for the 2021 Festival.

Background and Advice

The 2020 Innovation Festival event's purpose was to showcase the innovation support available in the county and highlight Lancashire as a place to innovate, thereby helping attract inward investment.

Each member of the Board delivered at least one panel event during the Festival and members of Lancashire's wider Innovation community also gave talks and took part in discussions. Wherever possible SME's led these conversations.

At the last Board meeting initial feedback was provided by Dan Knowles, the Festival Co-ordinator (supported by the officer innovation team) on how the sessions had been conducted and arrangements leading up to the month long virtual event.



Input from the Board identified the importance of addressing issues around communication and SME engagement, coordination of academic and industry input and the potential for improving collaboration between clusters of companies.

The following Appendices to this report from Dan Knowles provide a summary of the event, identifies outputs and sets out the proposed way forward with recommendations for a week long "Hybrid" virtual and face to face event in October 2021, setting out lessons learned from 2020 and outline proposals for the new event.

Appendix A - Review of the 2020 Lancashire Innovation Festival

Appendix B - Event Marketing Report

Appendix C - Questionnaire Feedback from the 2020 Innovation Festival

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A