Lancashire Innovation Festival
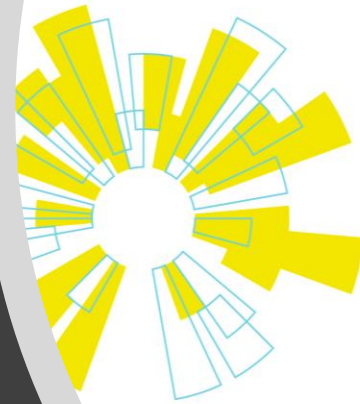
Questionnaire Feedback

Overview

- A feedback form was created to ask attendees their thoughts of innovation in Lancashire

- This was promoted during each session

- A total of 15 participants responded to the questionnaire

What do you think the Lancashire Innovation Board should be tackling first to build an effective innovation eco-system in the county?

- making the connections and highlighting what is already available, SMEs sometimes just need to know about what's available, not be offered something new.

- Map the innovation landscape as a starting point

- Travel

- Data and digital transformation along with robust energy management systems

- Poverty

- Gender equality and supporting women, particularly minority women and those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

- Finding or setting up funding streams to help people get started, without limits to it's use - trust people to use it how they need!

- Collaboration and Community

- Collaboration and connection within communities, regional business and academia - setting up initiatives like the LCIF are ideal for this!

- Lack of awareness of the existing resources and facilities within Lancashire

- Culture

- Showcasing both the existing larger companies that are successful and growing and also identifying and helping promote the smaller SMEs and key start ups that need a voice. You can also help by cross fertilising the networking between industry and academia (which often stagnates). I think you have a key role as a figurehead to help define the new direction of emerging business in Lancashire.

LANCASHIRE INNOVATION FESTIVAL

How can the Innovation Board best support innovation alongside the current fully funded programmes?

- connect partnerships - more than providing a list/database but reading between the lines between potential partners/collaborators. I'm personally good at this, but I'm only able to connect with people/businesses/programmes I am aware of. Sometimes a personal introduction is what makes the difference... which is much harder to do when we're not attending networking events in person.

- Seed funding, develop a bank of tool-kits to support innovation, mentors

- Learning and networking opportunities, sharing of best practice

- going more grass roots

- Provide a forum like today for people to support each other. Provide free people who can support people to know what legal entity would be best for their social business innovation.

- Networking

- Free resources for local businesses and researchers alike - potentially online resources and guides or partnering/mentoring opportunities.

- invest in artists

- By use of thought pieces and thought leadership in the area. Innovation has many definitions. A clear one is "Innovation is turning clever ideas into profit" and you can help bring together the people with the clever ideas who want to do something.

What sectors are emerging as new innovators that should be on our radar?

- We need to embed green/sustainability into EVERY sector. Innovate business models that make this possible at a basic level and easy for businesses that would never think about it. We are obviously focussed on this, but it should be at the heart of every business (and that's something we can help people with through our consultation/collaboration offerings)

- Green tech, artisan, social enterprise.

- Environmental sustainability

- social innovation happening all around the county

- Young activists and climate change initiatives

- Social sciences! Process-based innovation such as marketing, consumer research and media are all crucial alongside the natural sciences.

- Energy and Low Carbon; AI, digital and creative

- social innovation/citizen led and agriculture, digital architecture

- You should be covering all high tech sectors and manufacturing activity. That is where future commercial success and GDP contribution (and hence build back better) resides.

LANCASHIRE INNOVATION FESTIVAL

Summary

- What do you think the Lancashire Innovation Board should be tackling first to build an effective innovation eco-system in the county?
    - Collaboration (universities and business), communicating support more effectively, addressing social inequalities in innovation.

- How can the Innovation Board best support innovation alongside the current fully funded programmes?
    - Connecting people, acting as the broker is vital.

- What sectors are emerging as new innovators that should be on our radar?
    - Green Economy/Low Carbon followed by digital/tech and social innovation. But way out in front Low Carbon.