



LEP – Sub Committee

LEP - Lancashire Innovation Board

Private and Confidential: No

Date: Monday, 7 June 2021

Lancashire Innovation Observatory
(Appendix 'A' refers)

Report Author: Maya Ellis, maya.dibley@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

Work to scope the Innovation Observatory project started on 12th April 2021 with consultants future gov. The report attached as Appendix 'A' provides an update from FutureGov who have been commissioned to undertake detailed stakeholder engagement and design work to scope the functions for an interactive innovation platform for our key stakeholders and clusters.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to consider the update report attached at Appendix 'A' to this report, and

- a) engage with the ongoing research being undertaken by FutureGov.
- b) note the progress outlined in the update report and comment in relation to its fit with the objectives of the Board.

Background and Advice

The Board previously approved officers to proceed with developing an Innovation Observatory, the purpose of which is to provide an on-line platform seeking to address:

- information about clusters of innovative companies and assets in the county
- a dashboard illustrating progress around collective innovation KPIs
- access to opportunities, funding and technology missions relevant to the clusters
- insightful best practice information to spur engagement on projects & partnerships

The work on the Innovation Festival and discussions at the Board highlighted the importance of having greater clarity about innovative companies in Lancashire and for them to know who to collaborate with and the opportunities for relevant projects, funding and partnerships set in the context of best practice. The application of



national and local innovation plans as described in the accompanying agenda items will depend on mobilising clusters of innovative growth orientated companies.

It was proposed in the paper to the previous meeting that it would be necessary to scope the functions in more detail with members and stakeholders in order to produce a detailed brief and outline design to take to a web site solutions provider and to consider how it will interface with the innovation partners.

Officers met to consider the best way to undertake this exercise using the budget set aside for this task commissioned FutureGov, who commenced work in April 2021. FutureGov support organisations with digital transformation, service design and community development to build public sector institutions that are catalysts for change in the internet era.

The report at Appendix 'A' sets out the work to date by FutureGov on research and concept design along with a roadmap going forward and output dates. There has been considerable input to their consultation from members of the Board and key clusters.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
Future Gov Lancashire Innovation Observatory Update	18/05/2021	Matt Wright matthew.wright@lancashirelep.co.uk
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
N/A		