



LEP – Sub Committee

LEP - Lancashire Innovation Board

Private and Confidential: NO

Date: Monday, 7 June 2021

National and Regional Policy and cluster presentation

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Executive Summary

A presentation will be given by Jen Rae, the NP11 Innovation Director, on her role in this newly created post and the landscape of policy issues to be considered over the coming months (such as the national innovation strategy and place based R&D) and opportunities for the Board to feed into her plans.

This will be followed by input from Rick Holland, NW Regional Head of IUK and an Innovation Board member about an exemplar tech cluster in Lancashire he is championing and from Richard Lydon, a Materials Consultant working with Manchester University about a regional technology opportunity (given the relevance of materials to all sector groups).

The purpose of the item is to identify the national issues and draw out some regional and local opportunities on the ground alongside companies, that can illustrate and bring to life accompanying agenda items around the refreshed Lancashire Innovation Plan and the Innovation Observatory, helping to join up thinking.

There will be an opportunity to question Jen, Rick and Richard and contribute to the thinking at the meeting.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to receive a presentation from the NP11 Innovation Director as well as information on the electech cluster and emerging materials network and then input to discussion on the opportunities for the innovation plan.

Background and Advice

The NP11 is the business-led voice for the North that brings together the 11 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) from across the North of England. Launched in July 2018, it plays a leading role in realising the vision for an economically thriving Northern Powerhouse that drives economic prosperity, international competitiveness



and inclusive growth for the benefit of everyone across our great towns, cities and rural communities. NP11 has an Innovation Lead Group addressing innovation issues attended by representatives from each LEP. The Lancashire LEP Lead is Matt Wright.

NP11 identifies that by removing boundaries between industries, strengthening innovation eco-systems and establishing networks and places for people to interact and encourage investment, the North will be able to move closer to achieving its ambitions.

In order to unlock Lancashire's innovation potential, the NP11 intends to bring together innovation leaders from LEPs, businesses, networks and hubs, academia, and Government to work collaboratively, creating a clear framework for partnership between the North and the organisation UK Research and Innovation, along with other national R&D agencies. This will support local and regional innovation strategies, drive investment in the North, spur joint innovation activity to support the North's prime capabilities and drive the achievement of the target of 2.4% R&D investment in the North.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
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