



LEP – Sub Committee

LEP - Lancashire Innovation Board

Private and Confidential: No

Date: Monday, 7 June 2021

LIS (Local Industrial Strategy) Innovation Chapter review
(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

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Executive Summary

The 'Local Industrial Strategy' (LIS) for Lancashire has been prepared over the last few months by Economic Development consultancy, Steer Economic Development working with the Lancashire LEP and Lancashire County Council. The Appendices to this report provide a draft innovation chapter prepared by Steer Consultancy working with the Lancashire Universities Innovation Manager. Also attached is an Innovation Plan-on-a-Page prepared by the Lancashire Universities Innovation Manager to support this work alongside the LEP Sector Groups. The aim is for these documents to support the innovation aspects of a Lancashire Growth Plan.

The LIS Innovation chapter may also help board members consider the need to formally refresh the Innovation Plan post 2021, building on and linking to this work and clusters of companies under the Sector Groups. As such, discussion of the draft chapter at this stage is suggested.

Recommendations

1. The Board is asked to consider the attached draft innovation chapter of the Local Industrial Strategy (Appendix 'A') and indicate any key amendments to the narrative.
2. The Board is asked to consider the Plan-on-a-Page document attached as Appendix 'B' which seeks to build on the current Innovation Plan with technology missions based on capabilities and opportunities relevant to clusters of companies.
3. The Board is asked to approve further work by officers to begin a process of refreshing the 2017 Innovation Plan, building on the LIS Innovation Chapter research and recommendations. Suggestions on key items to include in this process are invited also.



Background and Advice

Lancashire currently has an Innovation Plan which was developed in 2017 and has guided much of the original innovation work and establishment of relevant business support projects and assets in the county. This continues to be the main document informing innovation deliverables in Lancashire. However, as many of those outputs are met or already in progress and with the changing circumstances following Covid, it will be necessary to consider a refresh of the current strategy.

A refresh of the Lancashire Innovation Plan was considered at the Lancashire Innovation Board's first meeting in June 2020 when it was agreed that it was more important for the Board to find its feet first and consider a refresh after 12 months.

Subsequent to the Innovation Plan the then Government required LEPs to develop a Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) building on the work of the National Industrial Strategy. The aim of a LIS was to increase regional economic productivity and as such had strong crossovers with innovation policy. Steer Group commenced work on behalf of the Lancashire LEP.

Following the election of a new Government in 2019, business and skills policy is undergoing change and the data and analysis drafted for the Lancashire LIS will help inform the development of a Lancashire Growth Plan post-Covid. As part of the strategy work by the LEP, a number of Sector Groups have been established led primarily by local industry and each is developing an action plan as well as examining cross cutting technology themes. The work of these groups has not been formally reported and published yet.

In order to prompt the thinking in terms of innovation, a paper was produced by the Lancashire Universities Innovation Manager and shared with the Steer Consulting Group and with the LEP Sector Groups. This seeks to define capability areas and opportunities for the county and identify technology missions and priorities.

The findings of the Sector Groups and a Technology workshop attended by the Chair of the Innovation Board will further contribute to planning and enable officers to work with the Board on a refreshed Innovation Plan. The scope for this will be brought to a future meeting of the Innovation Board and a task and finish group will be required to input to the roadmap as national and regional policy on innovation proceeds at pace.

List of Background Papers

| Paper | Date | Contact/Tel |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Innovation Chapter for LIS | 18/05/2021 | Matt Wright matthew.wright@lancashirelep.co.uk |
| Innovation 'Plan on a page' | 18/05/2021 | Matt Wright matthew.wright@lancashirelep.co.uk |
| Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate | | |
| N/A | | |