

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BUSINESS INNOVATION AND GROWTH PANEL  
HELD ON FRIDAY, 23 JUNE 2017 AT RELIANCE PRECISION, HUDDERSFIELD**

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**Present:**

Andrew Wright (Chair)	Reliance Precision
Councillor Darren Byford	Wakefield Council
Mike Danby	Advanced Supply Chain Lead
Professor John Fisher	University of Leeds
Sandy Needham	Chamber of Commerce
Ian Sharp	Digital Health Enterprise Zone
Andrew Welsh	Bradford College
Phillip Wilson	Slipstream Design

**In attendance:**

Sarah Bowes	WYCA
Sue Cooke	WYCA
Elizabeth Davenport	WYCA
Henry Rigg	WYCA
David Shepherd	WYCA
Dathan Tedesco	WYCA

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Richard Foster, Roy Miller, Patrick Mulligan and Tim Swift, and Dean Cook, John Eaglesham, Kersten England, Sophie Jewett, Mark Robson, Lee Savage, Simon Wright.

The Chair thanked two retiring members of the Panel, Amanda Lennon and Chris Schofield, for their contributions and informed members that recruitment of replacement members would commence in the coming months.

**2. Minutes of the meeting of the Business Innovation and Growth Panel held on 9 March 2017**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Business Innovation and Growth Panel held on 9 March 2017 be approved.

### **3. Declarations of interest**

None were declared.

### **4. Governance**

The Panel considered a report on governance arrangements which was presented by WYCA's Legal and Governance Services Solicitor.

The Panel were informed of the proposal to integrate the LEP Panels, including the Business Innovation and Growth Panel, into WYCA's decision making structure with the principal advantages of streamlining decision making, increasing accountability and transparency and having direct private sector involvement in WYCA decision making.

The Panel discussed the implications of the changes and noted that a report on the proposals would be considered by WYCA on 29 June and, if approved, the Business Innovation and Growth Panel would be appointed as an advisory committee of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority with effect from 1 September 2017.

**Resolved:** That the contents of the report be noted.

### **5. Business Innovation and Growth Plan**

Members were presented with the most up to date draft of the Business Innovation and Growth (BIG) Plan and asked to provide comment and input.

Following on from the last Panel meeting, the working group of Philip Wilson, Simon Wright and John Fisher had continued to refine the draft BIG Plan.

In parallel to the work to develop a new Plan, discussions had been taking place with Chief Executives and the LEP Board around a new Inclusive Industrial Strategy to replace the Strategic Economic Plan. It had been agreed that over the summer work would take place to identify what a new Inclusive Industrial Strategy might look like.

The work undertaken to date to draft the BIG Plan would provide an important starting point for input into a new Inclusive Industrial Strategy and any associated Delivery Plans.

Panel members discussed the plan and thanked members and officers for their work to progress it.

**Resolved:** That the work undertaken to develop the Business Innovation and Growth Plan be noted.

## 6. Innovation

Members were presented with an update on innovation activity, including:

- The emerging partnership agreement between the LEP / WYCA and Innovate UK.
- The emerging proposal by the eleven northern LEPs to develop a Northern Innovation Strategy.
- The ongoing work of the Innovation Working Group in mapping and identifying innovation active companies across the Leeds City Region.
- An update on the progress of innovation capital programmes.
- The progress of WYCA's innovation support programmes, including the £9.2m Access Innovation programme, supporting SMEs to develop new products and processes, and to develop long term productive working relationships with R&D specialist organisations.

Professor John Fisher also presented a summary report of the Med-Tech Science & Innovation Audit for Leeds City Region, which had been circulated by email in advance of the meeting. Members discussed how they could support the work and its propositions moving forwards.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the Panel considers how it can support and provide input into the next steps of the Leeds City Region Med-Tech Audit.

## 7. Inward Investment

WYCA's head of Trade & Investment presented the Panel with an update on inward investment performance and activity.

Having finalised performance figures for 2016/17, the Trade & Investment team had set new targets for 2017/18 and were pleased to report that there had already been two new significant inward investment project successes, bringing an anticipated 900 new jobs to the City Region.

Members were also provided with an overview of the projects and enquiries on the investment pipeline together with a summary of the business development activity taking place to help develop further enquiries.

**Resolved:** That the contents of the report be noted.

## 8. International Trade

WYCA's Head of Trade & Investment presented the Panel with an update on key activities within the International Trade Plan and an overview of the current trade

performance figures.

**Resolved:** That the contents of the report be noted.

**9. Any other business**

None.

**10. Date of next meeting**

7 September, 10.00am, Committee Room A, Wellington House, Leeds