
Report to: Business, Innovation and Growth Panel

Date: 27th February 2020

Subject: **Made Smarter in Leeds City Region**

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To update Panel members on plans to progress Made Smarter activities in Leeds City Region.

2. Information

Made Smarter

- 2.1 As part of our Digital Framework ambitions, we have prioritised addressing Made Smarter challenges. This is also reflected in the emerging Local Industrial Strategy priorities.
- 2.2 Made Smarter (commonly referred to as Industry 4.0, The Fourth Industrial Revolution, Digital Manufacturing etc) refers to the use of new digital technologies, especially in manufacturing, to improve productivity, competitiveness and delivering wider benefits to the economy. A Made Smarter review led by Professor Juergen Maier (CEO Siemens UK) was produced in 2017 and has significantly influenced the national Industrial Strategy.
- 2.3 A £20m pilot Made Smarter programme, following on from the Made Smarter Review, is currently running in the North West. Focussed on providing intensive support to SMEs, one year into the programme 300 North West small and medium sized manufacturers have secured support, including specialised advice and £1.6M of funding. The pilot has also included leadership and management courses to help imbed the new technologies and associated approaches into wider behaviours. A formal evaluation piece is currently taking place, but the outputs to date suggest a significant level of take up and demand for such a programme.

- 2.4 It is likely that further pilots will be rolled out across the country and Leeds City Region, with our significant assets, needs to be ready to embrace any future opportunities in order to support our SMEs to embrace innovation and technology. In order to do this, a Made Smarter Board has been established along with LEP participation in an interreg Europe project, SMARTY, to share learning and best practice around the adoption of Industry 4.0 across several European partners.

SMARTY

- 2.5 The SMARTY (Smart SMEs for Industry 4.0) project, which was outlined at the last Panel meeting, is entering its second semester, with the first interregional thematic seminar taking place on 25-26 February in Brussels. A verbal update will be provided to the Panel on the outcomes of the meeting, including some of the best practices that have been shared from other regions.
- 2.6 The first seminar will also be an opportunity for the City Region to showcase examples of best practice. An open request was made to a number of partnership forums, including the last Panel meeting, for examples, as well as drawing on the LEP's existing policies and business support programmes. This process will continue for future semesters to ensure we draw on the best practice from across the region. Best practice from the Access Innovation programme will be shared at the meeting in Brussels. Specific technology best practices are also being collated by the Textiles Centre of Excellence, our regional project partner.

Made Smarter Board

- 2.7 The Made Smarter Board will oversee and provide expert insight and challenge to both SMARTY and broader activities. Reporting into BIG Panel and chaired by Andrew Wright, the Board brings together key stakeholders and a wealth of experience to help shape and inform the Made Smarter challenges for Leeds City Region (see appendix 1 for membership).
- 2.8 The first meeting took place on the 30 January and a verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

3. Clean Growth Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

6. Staffing Implications

6.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

7. External Consultees

7.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

8. Recommendations

8.1 That the Panel note the contents of this report and discuss future opportunities.

9. Background Documents

None.

10. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Leeds City Region Made Smarter Board