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**Report to:** Business Innovation and Growth Panel

**Date:** 8 September 2020

**Subject:** **HealthTech**

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## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To update Panel members on work to progress the HealthTech agenda in Leeds City Region and seek feedback on the proposed way forward.

## **2 Information**

- 2.1 Leeds City Region is well recognised for its strength in HealthTech, evidenced through the Lifesciences Sector Deal and Science and Innovation Audit. The latest OLS data cements this: there are substantially more value-adding med-tech firms in the region than in any other LEP area. The same data also shows that the region ranks within the top 10 LEP areas for both core biopharma (7th) and digital health (4th), clearly positioning the region as a major contributor to the UK's health-tech business base.
- 2.2 Furthermore, the regional health-tech eco-system includes significant business clusters across the region, in Leeds, Bradford, Huddersfield, Harrogate and York. However, there are also notable business populations on the border between Bradford and Craven districts and in Calderdale.
- 2.3 Through the consultation and engagement process for the Local Industrial Strategy, HealthTech was identified as a key priority to drive both economic productivity outcomes, and health and wellbeing outcomes, and is a key focus of the new Economic Recovery Plan for West Yorkshire.
- 2.4 In terms of health innovation and bridging the gap between ideas and commercialisation, the region boasts some of the most accessible and forward thinking routes for businesses into the NHS, including the Yorkshire & Humber Academic Health Science Network (YHAHSN), the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Med-tech and In-Vitro Diagnostics Co-operatives (MICs), highly progressive NHS institutions such as the teaching hospitals in Bradford,

Leeds, and York, and vital expertise in health technology assessment via the York Health Economics Consortium (YHEC).

- 2.5 To further drive this forward, partners across Leeds City Region have recently come together in the HealthTech Leadership Group (HLG) to formalise a commitment through an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to drive economic growth and patient outcomes through innovation, bringing together the Association of British HealthTech Industries, the LEP, four of the City Region's Universities and the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership to provide leadership and achieve a step change.
- 2.6 The MoU, included at Appendix 1, outlines how partners will align our strategic and collaborative approaches to bring together the region's universities, health and care system, enterprise partnership, and HealthTech industry sector to develop an integrated innovation system in the City Region. Partners will use these innovations to achieve ambitions around prevention and promotion of good health, improve health and wellbeing outcomes and drive productivity.
- 2.7 In signing the MoU, all partners have agreed to work together to drive economic growth and improve health outcomes and service efficiency by;
- Finding personalised and community-based HealthTech solutions that help people live healthier lives for longer, particularly those living in identified priority neighbourhoods.
  - Sharing insights into what citizens in the Leeds City Region need, to determine what the priorities should be for health and care services and industry, and then working together on the agreed priority themes.
  - Driving inward investment in HealthTech in the region to support economic growth which is inclusive, benefiting all communities
- 2.8 Resources to support this work have to date been provided by the Leeds Academic Health Partnership on behalf of the region and there is a need to identify a more sustainable approach to drive this forward. To this end, the West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Plan sets out a £60m proposition and ask of Government to support Health Innovation in Leeds City Region (see Appendix 2), around which local authority leaders and the LEP Chair are seeking to progress discussions with Government.
- 2.9 The HLG has met three times and has identified the following areas of focus:
1. Vision and purpose
  2. Story and brand
  3. Leadership
  4. Innovation at scale
  5. Skills and talent
- 2.11 To underpin these priorities, there is a pressing need to develop a HealthTech Strategy, a coordinating, backbone organisation to provide the leadership required, and a number flagship projects that can be delivered across the City

Region. Discussions are underway with partners to progress this, aligned to the ask of Government.

### **3 Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no immediate financial implications directly arising from this report, however there may be a resource requirement to deliver against the ambitions set out in the report.

### **4 Legal Implications**

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

### **5 Staffing Implications**

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

### **6 External Consultees**

- 6.1 No external consultations have been undertaken specifically on this report.

### **7 Recommendations**

- 7.1 That the Panel notes the progress made to date on and provides input into the discussion on next steps.

### **8 Background Documents**

Opportunities and Growth: Medical Technologies in the Leeds City Region,  
*A Science and Innovation Audit sponsored by BEIS*

[https://leedscityregionmed.tech/Leeds\\_medtech\\_SIA\\_web.pdf](https://leedscityregionmed.tech/Leeds_medtech_SIA_web.pdf)

### **9 Appendices**

Appendix 1: Leeds City Region Integrated HealthTech Innovation System:  
Memorandum of Understanding / Terms of Reference

Appendix 2: West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Proposition – Health Innovation  
[www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/4420/recovery-proposition-health-innovation-20200826.pdf](http://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/4420/recovery-proposition-health-innovation-20200826.pdf)