
Report to: Business Innovation and Growth Panel

Date: 24 November 2020

Subject: **Innovation Framework**

Director(s): Alan Reiss, Director of Policy, Strategy, and Communications

Author(s): Sarah Bowes, Innovation and Digital Policy Manager

1 Purpose of this report

To provide Panel members with an update on progress to develop a new Leeds City Region Innovation Strategy and seek feedback on the vision and priorities and next steps.

2 Information

- 2.1 Panel members received a report at the last meeting setting out plans to develop a Leeds City Region Innovation Framework and the rationale behind this. This was supported by Panel members.
- 2.2 Since the last meeting, conversations have progressed with a range of Partners to help further refine the vision and priorities which were originally identified from the LIS evidence base, and from earlier engagement with the Panel and the West Yorkshire Innovation Network.
- 2.2 The proposed vision is: “A place that is globally recognised for developing an open, inclusive, thriving and coherent innovation ecosystem, where SMEs, budding entrepreneurs and individuals are inspired to innovate, and can easily navigate the support landscape and connect and collaborate with others to create new and better solutions for business growth and societal good.”
- 2.3 The draft priorities are as follow:
1. Inclusive innovation – by and for everyone
 2. A focus on healthtech
 3. A strengthened relationship with Innovate UK
 4. Innovation finance availability
 5. A focus on innovative start ups
 6. A new mission based approach to innovation
 7. A strengthened HE-SME relationship

8. Investing in centres of excellence which match industry strengths
9. Creation of peer to peer innovation support networks
10. Increasing adoption of new innovative practices
11. Connecting the landscape

Further details are in appendix 1 for which Panel feedback is sought.

- 2.4 The Panel are also asked to support a public consultation opening on the 25th November.

3 Clean Growth Implications

- 3.1 There are positive clean growth implications which will emerge from the Innovation Framework, utilising innovation to drive the clean growth agenda.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are future financial implications from a range of partners in delivering the strategy.

5 Legal Implications

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

6 Staffing Implications

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

7 External Consultees

- 7.1 Consultation has taken place with the West Yorkshire Innovation Network, Yorkshire Universities, the Chair of the Business Innovation and Growth Panel and the Leeds City Region lead CEX for innovation. Previous discussions have taken place at the Business Innovation and Growth Panel.

8 Recommendations

- 8.1 That the Panel provides feedback on the priorities and activities set out and supports the public consultation from the 25th November.

9 Background Documents

None

10 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Innovation Framework – DRAFT Vision and Priorities