
Report to: Business Innovation and Growth Panel

Date: 19 May 2021

Subject: **Space Hub Yorkshire**

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide an overview of activity to develop Space Hub Yorkshire and to seek Panel members feedback and support for the initiative.

2. Information

- 2.1 In November 2020, the University of Leeds in partnership with the LEP, secured funding from the UK Space Agency to develop a space cluster in the region. The funding was to map the space related assets in the region, understand the strengths of any existing cluster, and to build on that with a Growth Strategy to capitalise on the opportunity.
- 2.2 A working group, chaired by Mandy Ridyard, was established to oversee the initial phase of work, with Perspective Economics commissioned to undertake the mapping and strategy development work.
- 2.3 A presentation with the emerging findings and recommendations will be given at the meeting. The draft report is also attached (appendix 1).

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1 The research work has shown a great opportunity exists for the region to utilise space technology to better understand and address our climate emergency challenges and net zero ambitions.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1 The research identifies investment in skills and talent as being a key priority for Space Hub Yorkshire, particularly developing the future pipeline and inspiring young people.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 There are no equality and diversity implications directly arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report. Funding will be required to realise the ambitions of Space Hub Yorkshire, but any asks of the Combined Authority will be subject to future decision.

7. Legal Implications

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

8. Staffing Implications

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

9. External Consultees

- 9.1 Engagement has taken place with various industry and academic groups to develop the mapping and draft Growth Strategy. The findings and recommendations have been shared with the West Yorkshire Innovation Network.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 That the Panel notes and provides feedback on the presentation.

11. Background Documents

None.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft space strategy