
Report to: Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Board (LEP Board)

Date: 26 January 2022

Subject: **Healthtech Strategy**

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To update LEP Board on developments to the partnership Healthtech Strategy following the feedback from the previous LEP Board meeting and ahead of formal adoption by the Combined Authority in February.

2. Information

Health Innovation – Background

- 2.1 West Yorkshire has the raw ingredients to be an engine of health ideas and innovation that can drive levelling up, not only for the region's economy, but the nation. This will also help us to make a step change in tackling entrenched health and economic inequalities as well as supporting our overall economic growth and health outcomes.
- 2.2 According to Office for Life Sciences (OLS) [data](#) there are substantially more value-adding med-tech firms in the Leeds City Region than in any other UK LEP area (c.25% more, n=208). OLS data also show that the region ranks within the top 10 LEP areas for both core (high value-adding) biopharma (7th), and for digital health (4th), clearly positioning the region as a major contributor to the UK's overall healthtech business base.
- 2.3 As the strategy sets out, West Yorkshire is well placed to unlock that potential meaningfully and sustainably because of the strengths and uniqueness of our industry assets, university assets and health system assets.
- 2.4 The West Yorkshire and Harrogate (WYH) ICS 5 year plan has also identified this critical opportunity. 'Better health and wellbeing for everyone' highlights the transformative opportunities that healthtech and innovation can bring to deliver a healthier economy.

Strategy Development

- 2.5 The West Yorkshire Healthtech Strategy has been developed to convene partners under a shared narrative and direction of travel, to capitalise on the assets within the region and the opportunities for further growth in this sector. The strategy draws on a strong body of evidence including the central government-sponsored [Science and Innovation Audit](#) (2017) and [Digital Health Sector Report](#) (2019).
- 2.6 The strategy has been developed in conjunction with the Healthtech Cluster (formerly known as the Healthtech Leadership Group), which is facilitated by Leeds Academic Health Partnership. The cluster comprises a wide range of partner organisations including representatives from:
- West Yorkshire Integrated Care Partnership representing NHS organisations
 - Regional universities (Universities of Bradford, Huddersfield, Leeds, Leeds Beckett and York)
 - The Yorkshire and Humber Academic Health and Science Network (AHSN)
 - National and regional infrastructure support organisations and trade bodies, including the Association of British Healthtech Industries (ABHI), Medilink and Medipex.
- 2.7 The former Business Innovation and Growth Panel received presentations during the earlier stages of the strategy's development, and the Business Economy and Innovation Committee will oversee the strategy and its implementation.
- 2.8 The strategy was presented to LEP Board on 30 November and received both support in principle and robust, constructive feedback. Follow-up engagement has taken place with a number of LEP Board members to develop and respond to the feedback around priorities, next steps and deliverables.
- 2.9 The action plan section of the strategy has been refined as a result of the feedback and subsequent helpful engagement with LEP Board members. All of the actions relate to the overarching objective of reducing barriers to healthtech innovation, to deliver our vision of being the number one place for healthtech innovation. We look forward to an ongoing dialogue and engagement with key stakeholders as this work develops and starts delivering. The robust feedback received so far has been extremely useful in the development of the strategy and its action plan.

There are now 7 areas of action within the strategy, organised under 3 headline goals – see Appendix 1 for more detail and next steps.

In summary:

Goal 1: A well-aligned, innovation-driven healthtech ecosystem in our region

Actions - what we will do:

1. We will develop and strengthen our Healthtech Cluster partnership
2. We will map healthtech innovation support provision and work to reduce fragmentation and address gaps
3. We will develop a collective understanding of regional projects and how they fit together in a cohesive narrative

Goal 2: Innovation is driven by regional NHS system need, and innovations are adopted at scale across West Yorkshire

Actions - what we will do:

4. We will use the Innovation and Improvement Hub (West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership) as the mechanism to signal the needs of the health system and drive a cultural shift towards innovation
5. We will identify barriers to innovation, including the role of funding and options for addressing these

Goal 3: West Yorkshire is recognised as a leading place for healthtech innovation

Actions - what we will do:

6. We will continue efforts to attract the best inward investment opportunities, whilst making the most of the national assets within our region
7. We will put resources into championing and leading on behalf of the sector, working through our Healthtech Cluster partnership and Healthcare Innovation Communications Group

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1 Supporting the development of new innovations and adoption into the health system has well evidenced benefits in support of cleaner, greener outcomes. The new strategy will prioritise investment and activity to support the climate emergency.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1 Supporting the deployment of new to world innovations into the health and care system is critical to achieving our post covid economic and health ambitions and reducing inequalities. The strategy has a clear focus on using health innovation to address health inequalities.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 As set out in the Innovation Framework 'Innovation For Everyone', there is a focus across both strategies to ensure greater diversity across innovation – both in developing new healthtech products and involving a diverse range of stakeholders in prioritising those innovations. The new Innovation and Improvement Hub at the centre of the strategy will be key to achieving this.

6. Financial Implications

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

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 Consultation has taken place via the original Innovation Framework YourVoice consultation exercise, Leeds City Region Healthtech Cluster (Leadership Group), and Business Communications Group.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 That the LEP Board notes the developments made to the strategy action plan in response to previous feedback.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Revised Healthtech Strategy Action Plan