

Report to: West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Date: 3 February 2022

Subject: **Healthtech Strategy**

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Is this a key decision?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To update the West Yorkshire Combined Authority on work to develop the region's Health Innovation agenda and approve the partnership Healthtech Strategy.

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. 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

- 2.4 The Healthtech Strategy has been developed to convene partners under a shared narrative and direction of travel. It 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.
- 2.5 The former Business Innovation and Growth Panel received presentations during the earlier stages of development. Both the Business, Economy and Innovation Committee and the LEP Board have provided feedback on the draft strategy during development. 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. 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.
- 2.6 The Healthtech Strategy builds directly from the recently adopted Innovation Framework Priority 2: Health Innovation and develops the narrative and the detailed action plan for the region.

Other activity

- 2.7 The Combined Authority has allocated £200,000 of funding to recruit a Regional Healthtech Lead to deliver the shared ambitions of the Healthtech Strategy. The postholder, who started in October 2021, is now working across the partnership to convene partners and ensure a joined-up approach to discovery, development and adoption of opportunities.

- 2.8 In May 2021, the WYH ICS agreed a partnership with the Yorkshire and Humber Academic Health Science Network to deliver a system wide programme for innovation for health & care partners. The WYH Innovation Hub will be a central resource for all WYH partners and has four specific aims: Matching innovation to un-met need; Promoting a culture of continuous improvement; Targeted single point of contact; Signposting. A Director lead for the hub is currently being recruited and the intention is that both this resource and the Combined Authority Lead will work closely across the ecosystem to support and match innovation with health system needs.
- 2.9 In September 2021, the Leeds Academic Health Partnership on behalf of the regional Healthtech Leadership Group launched the regional Healthtech Catalyst, a networking programme aimed at providing support across the system and brokering connections across and between the ecosystem.

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 Combined Authority notes the progress made to support the Health Innovation agenda.
- 10.2 That the Combined Authority approves and endorses the vision and direction for the partnership set out by the West Yorkshire Healthtech Strategy and that the Combined Authority adopts it as part of the Strategic Economic Framework.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Healthtech Strategy

Appendix 2 – Healthtech Strategy Action Plan and Next Steps

Appendix 3 – Plan on a page