

Report to: Business, Economy, and Innovation Committee

Date: 24 January 2023

Subject: **Innovate UK West Yorkshire Action Plan**

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Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 seek input from the committee on the Innovate UK Action Plan for West Yorkshire, developed by Innovate UK in partnership with the region, which will lead to increased investment for businesses and additional profile for the region.

2. Information

- 2.1 As part of an increased focus on place, Innovate UK are developing regional action plans across the UK to put in place targeted activities to support local innovation.
- 2.2 Innovate UK transparency data shows that, regardless of whichever analysis you do, businesses in West Yorkshire receive fewer grants (and value of grants) per 1,000 businesses. Depending on the analysis, this gap ranges from £2.5m to £50.5m if WY had the same ratio of finance and awards as the UK average.
- 2.3 At their meeting during the West Yorkshire Innovation Festival in October 2022, the Mayor and Indro Mukerjee (CEX of Innovate UK) agreed to

reconfirm a joint commitment to working in partnership to increase business innovation investment in West Yorkshire.

- 2.4 This Action Plan will be launched at an invite only event in February 2023 at NEXUS where there will be a significant opportunity to secure increased regional and national profile a result (building on the momentum from WYIF 2022).
- 2.5 The Action Plan is owned by Innovate UK and sets out activities that they will progress to support innovation activity in West Yorkshire. Combined Authority Officers have been involved in supporting the development of this Action Plan to ensure strong and clear alignment with regional strategic ambitions as set out in the Innovation Framework. There is now the opportunity to seek further input from BEIC to ensure the action plan meets regional needs and builds on our strategic ambitions.
- 2.6 Innovate UKs Action Plan for West Yorkshire builds on existing agreements between West Yorkshire and IUK including the MoU from 2017 and [devo deal commitments from 2020](#). The new plan will support increased IUK investment into West Yorkshire businesses.
- 2.7 Key actions proposed from the plan are set out in Appendix 1

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1 Increasing innovation investment in the region aligned to the Innovation Framework will have a positive impact on tackling the climate change through the development of new products, processes and services aimed at addressing net zero.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1 IUK recognise the intrinsic link between innovation and skills and have committed via the action plan to supporting local activity where possible.
- 4.2 The West Yorkshire focus of driving impact through the creation of products, process and services to solve societal challenges has also been recognised by IUK as part of the Action Plan.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 EDI will be embedded throughout the Action Plan as IUK have responded to our local place-based Innovation Framework and its focus on inclusive innovation 'Innovation for Everyone'.
- 5.2 There are a number of opportunities to achieve this including through the greater promotion and reach of IUK products via the CA and LA trusted partner routes into communities, and in the design and creation of new products.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. There are no financial implications

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 on the plan has taken place with local authority colleagues and the West Yorkshire Innovation Network.

10. Recommendations

10.1. That BEIC input into the contents of the action plan.

11. Background Documents

11.1 None.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Key actions proposed for the Plan