

Appendix 1 – Key actions proposed for the Plan

1. Strengthening Capability in Places – Investing in local strengths that are critical to building and maintaining overall UK capability

1.1 Data Sharing and Evidence

Data sharing & business intelligence: share relevant data sets, including data re. specific businesses and applications for IUK and WYCA competitions (in accordance with GDPR and subject to legal and contractual agreements), with the aim of improving targeted support.

1.2 Business Innovation

Collaboration: Continue to provide strategic input into the Business Economy and Innovation Committee via the Regional Manager. Engagement with this committee provides the key mechanism for senior level engagement into the region into local need and provides the opportunity to engage on future programme development. BEIC will regularly review progress against this Action Plan.

Cluster development: support the development of West Yorkshire's innovation clusters, acting as an integral part of the existing ecosystem, centred on established capabilities in Healthtech, Manufacturing, and future AI Solutions & Emerging Technologies.

Business capacity building: Identify, develop and deliver mechanisms and support that raises awareness, understanding and access for WYCA businesses to the full spectrum of IUK/UKRI programmes, increasing business Innovation activities and investment in West Yorkshire

1.3 Collaborative Partnerships

Providing appropriate resources to ensure the success of this partnership agreement, including exploring more collaborative working arrangements, including secondments across Innovate UK and West Yorkshire.

Build on existing good practice in the region, Innovate UK (Innovate UK Edge, Innovate UK KTN, Catapults) will become increasingly visible across the West Yorkshire Innovation Network ecosystem, via co-location and hot desking opportunities at innovation hubs across the region.

Work with West Yorkshire Innovation Network to identify appropriate local expertise that could support Innovate UK activity (supporting the ambition to ensure independent expert assessors are drawn from across the UK).

Collaborative Research & Development: increase support for industry and research organisations to improve value and impact of business-led R&D projects.

1.4 Skills and Inclusion

The future of work and innovation skills for growth: joint working (potentially also involving UK Government departments) to understand the skills requirements of employers, refocus existing provision to meet these needs, and develop cases for further investments.

Inclusive innovation: embed an inclusive approach to innovation at all levels and highlight the potential for people from all backgrounds to make a difference, plus explore opportunities to co-

create a programme to identify and solve critical local challenges, in part by applying our world class capabilities to redress major inequalities and disadvantages across our own communities.

2. Connecting National to Local – Making it easier for businesses to find the best support, whether local or national

2.1 Collaborative Partnerships

Coherence in our approaches: continue to work with West Yorkshire Combined Authority to ensure coherence while expanding our engagement with partners across West Yorkshire, including DIT, British Business Bank, and other key players.

Strategic Engagement: via the BEIC and WYIN develop regional plans and strategies that improve the connectivity between Innovate UK Edge, Innovate UK KTN, Catapults and the region. The WYIN will provide a key forum to connect local with national.

Engagement between UKRI and WY: We will facilitate and support stronger and more cohesive partnership arrangements beyond IUK to ensure the benefits of a place base approach are maximised.

2.2 Data Sharing and Evidence

Data Sharing: Finalise the Data Sharing Agreement with WYCA so that we can share the contact details of businesses who are unsuccessful in our funding competitions. This will enable West Yorkshire to offer further support to those businesses, improving their prospects in future competitions and / or helping them to find other ways to achieve their innovation goals.

2.3 Business Innovation

Communication: Work collaboratively with West Yorkshire on joint areas of comms and marketing, where that activity supports the ambitions of both parties to better enable WY businesses to access/benefit from Innovate UK/UKRI programmes/opportunities.

Promote: Work with the region specifically on the annual West Yorkshire Innovation Festival, Innovate UK and the CA will collaborate on a campaign to inspire innovation and promote opportunities to WY businesses.

Hold Innovate UK led events as part of the annual WYIF to ensure the Innovate UK offer is firmly embedded in the region.

Simplified access to innovation support: Work with the CA to explore alignment of our business facing website with the new Innovate UK innovation hub to maximise reach into West Yorkshire.

Innovation Projects Pipeline: engage with identified and future projects across the WYCA innovation pipeline as a critical friend, and provide development advice plus signposting to relevant UKRI, BEIS and wider programmes and competitions

3. Driving Local Impact – Tailored support to clusters of innovative businesses to improve local economies

Innovate UK will:

3.1 Collaborative Partnerships

Communications & events: use respective channels to amplify reach and impact regarding innovation-related news, developments, and opportunities, potentially including more national events in WYCA, where possible more slots for West Yorkshire speakers at UKRI innovation events, and more involvement for IUK and UKRI in West Yorkshire events. Ensuring diversity is represented.

Key forums to drive cluster development: Participate in key forums including (but not limited to) the West Yorkshire Innovation Network, Healthtech Cluster Network, Space Hub Yorkshire and the new Manufacturing Advisory Board, providing appropriate representation and sector expertise from across Innovate UK.

Work with local partners to support the development and growth of local clusters of both regional and national significance including delivery of the regions Healthtech Strategy via appropriate opportunities.

3.2 Skills and Inclusion

Engagement: support the Mayors innovation prize and subsequent young innovator programs