



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

Date: 27 March 2018

Subject: **Digital Framework**

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1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To update LEP Board on work to develop the Leeds City Region Digital Framework and seek feedback and comments.

2 Information

Leeds City Region Digital Framework

- 2.1 LEP Board will be aware a long standing ambition to develop a Digital Strategy for the whole of the City Region.
- 2.2 Work to develop a Digital Framework is now being progressed alongside work to develop the new Local Inclusive Industrial Strategy. Although these are separate strands of work with different timescales, the Digital Framework - once established - will contribute significantly to the narrative and objectives of the digital & tech focused Local Industrial Strategy.
- 2.3 The output of the work to develop a Digital Framework will be a short, concise document (PowerPoint slides) which clearly articulates the overall vision for the digital economy in Leeds City Region whilst setting out clear ambition statements and proposed interventions. The Digital Framework will also make clear how it will contribute towards (and help to solve) the City Region's four key challenges.
- 2.4 This overarching Digital Framework will provide a framework for investment and a collective narrative/ ambition for 'digital' across the whole City Region.
- 2.5 The Framework will set out to articulate an approach to the digital economy and to the development of digital capability across the City Region's population and institutions that sets the direction of travel and encourages all the other actors in the region to align with both the LEP and Combined Authority and each other.

- 2.6 In this way, the very process of bringing together key stakeholders from across the City Region will help to build relationships and identify opportunities to work collaboratively going forwards.
- 2.7 There are five strands (or outcomes) to the emerging LCR Digital Framework (which are all very much interconnected):
- Every business a digital business – helping LCR businesses to embrace and grow through improved use of new technologies;
 - Digital skills for all – giving everyone access to the skills they need to thrive in a the digital economy
 - A digital sector that services the world – making LCR the best place to start and grow a digital business
 - World class digital infrastructure – ensure everyone can access a fast, reliable and resilient network
 - A smarter, more intelligent City Region – using technology and data to solve the City Region’s biggest challenges and improve citizen outcomes.
- 2.8 A number of these strands are taken from the Government’s Digital Strategy and mirror the Government’s ambitions to grow the economy through the opportunities that digital brings. The Leeds City Region Framework will position digital as an enabler – and not the driver – in an attempt to solve some of the City Region’s biggest challenges.
- 2.9 Good work under each of these outcomes is already taking place across the City Region, for example the new Digital Inward Investment Fund and Digital Skills Campaign. The Framework will recognise this, building on good practice and identifying new future activity, particularly aligned with Inclusive Growth outcomes.
- 2.10 For each of the 5 strands/outcomes, a facilitated pre-consultation workshop will take place during March. These will bring in a small group of key stakeholders to test some of the emerging thinking to date. Following this, a much wider online consultation process will take place in an attempt to capture the views and opinions of stakeholders across the City Region and across the 5 strands.
- 2.11 More detailed information on each of the proposed outcomes can be found in **Appendix 1**.
- 2.12 Many of the proposed activities can be achieved by better coordination / flexing of existing work across partners. For other strands, opportunities may exist through national funding competitions (BDUK, Innovate UK etc).

3 Financial Implications

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

4 Legal Implications

4.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

5 External Consultees

5.1 A number of external discussions have taken place to inform the emerging Framework proposals. These include: DigiCat Yorks and DHEZ; KT Directors; Local Authorities; Leeds Digital Board; INCA; in addition to several LEP Board and BIG Panel members including Andrew Wright and Rashik Parmar. Pre consultation workshops will take place in March, followed by extensive online consultation from May.

6 Recommendations

6.1 That LEP Board provide comments on the direction of travel and emerging outcomes.

7 Background Documents

None.

8 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Leeds City Region Digital Framework Outcomes