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

Date: 22 November 2018

Subject: **Digital Framework**

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide LEP Board with an update on the development of the Leeds City Region Digital Framework and seek endorsement from LEP Board for the adoption of the Framework.

2. Information

Background

- 2.1 Over the last 12 months work has been progressing to develop a Digital Strategy for the whole of the City Region.
- 2.2 Desk research and evidence gathering took place early in 2018. In March a series of facilitated pre-consultation workshops took place to test out some of the emerging thinking to date. These brought small groups of key stakeholders together in advance of any proposals being shared with a wider audience.
- 2.3 The overall ambition is for the Digital Framework is to provide a framework for investment and a collective narrative/ ambition for 'digital' across the whole City Region.
- 2.4 The Framework sets 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 the Combined Authority and each other.
- 2.5 The golden thread running through the Digital Framework is people – lives transformed by digital tech. To ensure as much buy in and support to the Framework from people who will ultimately be impacted by it, the online consultation was launched in July using the Combined Authority's new Engagement Hub Your Voice. The consultation provided a starter for ten in

terms of ambition and suggested interventions, with a view to gathering much wider input to shape the Framework.

- 2.6 The online consultation was supported by a focused communications and marketing campaign which included the use of social media to share blogs, videos, polls of the week, Yorkshire Post articles, LEP newsletter, local authorities. A face to face event was also held in Holmfirth.

Consultation responses

- 2.7 Over 100 responses to the survey were received. 75% of responses were from individuals, 14% from businesses and 11% from organisations.
- 2.8 Responses were received from every district, although numbers vary significantly across the City Region:

District	% of responses
Leeds	36
Bradford	18
Kirklees	9
Barnsley	9
Wakefield	7
Calderdale	3
York	3
Harrogate	2
Selby	2
Craven	1
<i>Not stated</i>	11

- 2.9 The key question asked was to gauge the level of support for the proposed ambitions and interventions and identify any areas where this needed changing. *‘Do you agree with the proposed ambition and interventions?’* This was followed up with *‘please provide a comment to explain your answer’*.
- Digital opportunities for all businesses: **85%** of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed. No one disagreed or strongly disagreed.
 - Digital skills for all: **95%** of respondents either strongly agreed. One respondent strongly disagreed.
 - Strong digital sector: **89%** of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed. Two respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed.
 - World class digital infrastructure: **87%** of respondents stated that they strongly agreed or agreed. 1 respondent strongly disagreed.
 - Using tech for good: **86%** of respondents either strongly agreed. Two respondents disagreed.

- 2.10 Feedback received through the consultation process has now been incorporated into the revised framework. The high level ambition statements can be found in appendix 1. Further engagement will take place on specific elements of the framework as action plans are developed.

Next steps

- 2.11 In line with WYCA's approach to developing agile and flexible policy products, LEP Board are asked to endorse the overarching outcomes and principles of the Digital Framework.
- 2.12 Working groups will be established to develop and own action plans to ensure the aspirations in the framework are realised, building on existing activity taking place across the City Region.
- 2.13 Each of the five outcomes of the framework will be owned by various existing Panels and Boards. Working groups will report directly to Panels.

Outcome	Panel	WYCA officer lead
Digital opportunities for all businesses	BIG / ESP	Sarah Bowes/Henry Rigg
Digital skills and inclusion for all	Skills – ESP* Inclusion – Inclusive Growth and Public Policy Panel	Peter Glover / Emma Longbottom James Flanagan/Sarah Bowes
Digital Sector	BIG Panel	Tony Corby/ Sarah Bowes
World class infrastructure	Place Panel	Justin Wilson
Tech for good	BIG Panel / LEP Board	Sarah Bowes/ Kate Gifford/ Tony Corby

*Or Digital Skills Partnership if application successful.

- 2.14 LEP Board has overall accountability for the strategy, and it is proposed a working group of LEP members (Rashik Parmar, Adam Beaumont, Andrew Wright, Nic Greenan, along with Kersten England as lead Chief Executive) should be convened to provide a holistic overview of activity.
- 2.15 To support the adoption of the new Digital Framework, the team are working on a digital place narrative to promote Leeds City Region Transformed by Tech. This will set the people aspect of digital at its centre, whilst showcasing existing strengths and future opportunities for the digital tech City Region.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications in endorsing this strategy. Specific activities which require funding are likely to be identified through the working groups

and where these require Combined Authority funding these will be considered as part of the budget planning process.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report

5. Staffing Implications

5.1 There are no direct staffing implications arising from this report. The staff identified above are already involved in activity under the five outcomes.

6. External Consultees

6.1 Consultation and engagement has taken place through the following routes: Chief Executives; BIG Panel; ESP; private sector pre consultation workshops; local authority workshops; public engagement via YourVoice; twitter; linkedin.

7. Recommendations

7.1 That LEP Board endorse the overarching outcomes and principles of the Digital Framework.

7.2 That LEP Board support the proposal for a Digital Working Group comprised of LEP Board Digital Champions to provide a holistic overview of activity.

8. Background Documents

8.1 None

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 Digital Framework ambitions