

Draft Innovation Group minutes

Wednesday, 26th February 2020 11:00 – 13:00

OxLEP Boardroom, Jericho Building, Oxford, OX1 1SA

Members present:	<p>Lesley Thompson (LT): Chair Chas Bountra (CB): University of Oxford Sarah Haywood Price (SHP): Advanced Oxford Simonetta Manfredi (SMf): Oxford Brookes (<i>in attendance for Prof Linda King</i>) Roger Neal (RN): Sophos UK Debbie Buckley– Golder (DBG): Innovate UK James Colgate (JC): Williams Engineering Jane Galsworthy (JG): Oxford Innovation / AO Rep Barbara Ginnelli (BG): SFTC – Dialled in Agne Milukaite (AM): Cycleland Andrew Harrison (AH): Diamond Light Source</p>
Apologies:	<p>Ian Chapman (IC) : UKAEA Paul Beasley (PB): Siemens UK Stuart Martin (SM): Satellite Catapult</p>
Attending:	<p>Phil Clare (PC): Oxford University Thandiwe Hara-Msulira (THM): OxLEP Sebastian Johnson (SJ): OxLEP Ahmed Goga (AG): OxLEP Josh Fedder (JF): BEIS Helen Brind (HB): OxLEP Alexandra Capatra (AC): OxLEP Nicola McConville (NM): TechTonic Puja Gidwani (PG): OxLEP Bruno Kronbergs (BK): BEIS Tracy James (TJ): OxLEP David Legg (DL): Innovate UK</p>

Item 1 - Welcome, introductions and apologies

- The Chair welcomed attendees and apologies were noted.

Item 2 - Matters Arising & Minutes of the Meeting on 4th December 2019

- The minutes of the 4th December 2019 meeting were approved.

Item 3 – Increasing Business Investment in R&D – Bruno Kronbergs - BEIS

To receive information from the 2.4% team at BEIS on the target to increase R & D investment.

AG introduced BK to the members.

BK: There has been a lot of effort on delivering what was headlined during the Election campaign and since, e.g.

- Under the commitment to “become a science superpower,” “Accelerating” the achievement of the 2.4% goal.
- A public commitment to a significant uplift in R&D spend. We are considering what the public R&D funding system may need to look like to deliver effectively, in relation to setting clear priorities and leveraging private investment.
- BEIS, Number 10 and HMT are all working closely on this agenda, providing continuity alongside the Ministerial changes.

BEIS are looking at the broader environment for growing private R&D, and innovation across the piece. Our intention (not formal policy) is to look at the means to:

- Maximise investment from R&D investors
- Continue to attract and retain high value FDI
- Boost R&D investment from a wider sectoral base

More widely, we are considering the role of all of the different government departments’ R&D spend.

Action : BT will inquire whether there is any public messaging that is going out on DARPA

Action : LT to connect Bruno to a tax company that may be interested in the Tax/R&D work.

Action : **SJ** to join up inward investment and the Oxfordshire ecosystem with DIT BEIS etc and to set up a meeting between BEIS/DIT/Oxford to be set up.

Item 4 : Oxfordshire Intellectual Property Policy – (PG) – (Also refer to Paper 1)

An introduction to OxLEP-IPO collaborative place-based policy

The **Local Industrial Strategy** has committed to “work with the Intellectual Property Office to launch a pilot programme to accelerate IP and commercialisation across the ecosystem to help ‘breakthrough businesses,’ capture the value of their IP across the business cycle.”

The intellectual property rights (IPR) system is the legal mechanism for the protection of assets created through innovation.

- The Government want to reach 2.4% per cent of GDP investment in R&D by 2027 and 3.3% by 2033
- Currently, Britain only spends 1.7% of GDP on R&D compared to the OECD average of 2.4% of GDP (USA 2.8%) (Germany 2.9%).
- Investment in intangible assets is estimated to have directly contributed around a fifth of productivity growth pre-financial crisis.
- Oxford has over 33,000 VAT registered companies.

How can IP help businesses in Oxfordshire?

- Investment in IP encourages investment in business
- An IP strategy encourages inward investment and stimulates export
- Securing IP can boost share value (seed funding), hidden value (growth capital), exit value (sale)

Objectives of the pilot

In the short term: to provide one-to-one IP support for SMEs. In the long term, to build IP capability across the region by:

- Highlighting how SMEs can protect their IP assets domestically and abroad
- Highlighting the risks of infringing a third party's IPR and how to mitigate those risks
- Helping businesses to understand how IP can encourage external investment
- Helping businesses to understand that IP is key to competitive advantage and growth
- Assisting SMEs to realise IP must be a part of their business strategy if they want to commercialise it
- Signposting the role IP can play in grants, licensing/franchising agreements, business/university collaborations, business to business collaborations, non-disclosure agreements and employment contracts
- Ensure IPO is represented in wider Government initiatives in the region, including support the delivery of the Local Industrial Strategy, working with Department for International Trade, British Business Bank, Innovate UK and ongoing work on the Cambridge-Oxford Corridor.

PJ gave some statistics on application volumes for designs and patents from Oxfordshire, including reflection on the appetite from universities to commercialise their IP.

CB If the findings are that Universities have many patents but are not exploiting them or getting value, then we may need to have separate conversations offline about how this can be improved.

NM : We need to note that people's interest in commercialisation may be different – i.e. Not every business is interested in commercialisation in the monetary sense. Some are more interested in social impact.

JG: it is also important to note that a lifelong implications of IP. A 20 year patent can cost up to £60,000 so businesses want to be very sure about the value of their IP before investing in it.

PC – What can we infer from the statistics provided? And can we compare to other areas?.

SHP – We cannot make any conclusion from the statistics as they stand, or compare them to other areas. We need more details of this data...

Action : We need a deeper dive of this information so that we can make the correct decisions and see what we can do to capitalise on IP. We need this item to come back to the board next meeting

Item 5 – Women and Entrepreneurship

- a) *An overview of the TechTonic network initiative.*

NM TecTonic founder – The investor community is male dominated and there is a perception of bias. TecTonic was set up in 2015, as a network for female entrepreneurs to address the lack of female business angels. They wanted to create something that was more inclusive, and could encourage women to have opportunity to deliver value in a way that was not being recognised in the Tech-industry.

Key points to note were that:

- Not everybody wants to be in C-suite
- Not all founders are in C-suite
- Spinouts outs represent a small area of female involvement in entrepreneurship

Services

- TecTonic runs 3-4 events a year.
- Services include coaching and mentoring.

Questions

- If only a few women are accessing investment, where is the all the investment money going?
- What are the targets needed to effect change?
- How are decisions on who to invest in made by investors?.

There are some funds that understand spin outs but for most female entrepreneurs, it is not easy to work out which ones. There are funds that are diversity led or female led (e.g. Astia), but there isn't a fund for female led spinouts.

ACTION: NM will contact SM to be engaged with the women and spin outs project.

Item 5 – Women and Entrepreneurship

- b) *An update on the Gender & University- University of Oxford (REF Paper 2).*

As a leader in University-led innovation and entrepreneurship, Oxford will also work to address gender inequalities in entrepreneurship, including through targeted positive action. One key challenge is the lack of data on female entrepreneurship. We need to know where we are, and what is required for us to develop systematic data collection, governance and analysis processes, including GDPR compliance. In addition, the data needs to be collected in a meaningful way. We understand the4 scale of the challenge, and we are thinking through how this could be done.

We have some inferred numbers of female participation e.g.

- We estimate that 9.6 % of our founders are female
- 22.2% of Oxford University spinouts have at least one female founder.
- We also have an idea of students appetite for enterprise. E.g. 4 years ago, twice as many men and women ticked that box.

However, we need more accurate numbers and there remains a lot of knowledge gaps e.g.

- What is the number of women who are being involved?
- How many 'could' become entrepreneurs versus how many actually become one?
- How many women who complete project proposals go on to get funding?
- How can we reach out more broadly to wider groups?.

Next steps

Our plans include to develop:

- A GDPR compliant data project plan and initial baseline data (if applicable)
- Series of events and/or programmes relevant to the findings of the audit
- An agreed set of metrics
- Full ecosystem audit report including gap analysis

Item 6 LIS Investment Prospectus

To receive an update on the LIS process and various sessions held by Steer ED.

LK noted and members agreed that the BEIS item was so fundamental, so it had been allowed to overrun. However, this meant that there wasn't adequate time to cover this item.

Action: AG to provide update on this item to members via email

Item 7 Innovation Supports for Small Business (Also refer to paper 3)

To receive an update on the LIS process and various sessions held by Steer ED.

The ISFSB programme is designed to drive commercialisation of innovation in Oxfordshire's SME community. It is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and is delivered in partnership with Begbroke Science Park, Said Business School, Oxford City Council (Smart Oxford), The Hill (OUH NHS Trust) and Cherwell District Council. The first grant round launched in the summer of 2018, and it was technically launched in September 2018.

Support for businesses is currently provided through:

- One to one sessions
- Workshops
- Go-Create innovation grants
- Access to physical resources such as Agile & Prototyping Labs at Begbroke and shared workspace at the new Bicester Eco Business Centre.

Following a recent project change request, the programme will now run through to 2022. However, partner support ends in September 2020.

Potential future offer

This could include:

- Creating a more integrated innovation programme with a clear client journey
- Keep grants as a core offer and simplifying grant processing for clients
- Roll out more in-depth and sophisticated innovation services

- Service areas could include; an incubator, online self-diagnosis, boot camp sessions and accelerator days or open innovation programmes.

Challenges

There are some challenges relating how best to deliver the research collaboration target.

Action : HB to share definitions of research collaborations with the group so that we can see how we can help this target better. She can also ask a small group of people to work on this.

AOB

To give update on progress and future plans.

Cluster map –AG reminded people about the cluster map on <https://oxfordcluster.com/>. Members are encouraged to look at it and provide feedback before the next meeting.

ACTION – All Innovation Group member to review the cluster map and feedback comments to AG by 20th January

Future Meetings (2020)

15 th June	: 11: 00 - 13:00
23 rd September	: 14:30 - 16:30
16 th Dec 2020	: 14:30 - 16:30