Innovation Sub-Group Meeting

Tuesday 25th May 2021, 14:00 – 16:00

Virtual Microsoft Team Meeting

Join Microsoft Teams Meeting

Minutes of the meeting

Members present:	**Lesley Thompson (LT):** Chair & VP Academic & Govt Strategic Alliance, Elsevier **Sarah Haywood Price (SHP):** Managing Director, Advanced Oxford **Roger Neal (RN):** Sophos UK **Jane Galsworthy (JG):** Director of Programmes, Oxford Innovation /AO Rep **Barbara Ghinelli (BG):** Director, Business Development and Clusters, Harwell Campus (STFC) **Agne Milukaite (AM):** Founder, Cycle Land **Stuart Martin (SM):** CEO, Satellite Applications Catapult **Andrew Harrison (AH)**: CEO, Diamond Light Source **Paul Beasley (PB):** Prof of Energy Systems and Head of R&D, Siemens UK **James Colgate (JC):** Operations Director, Williams Grand Prix Engineering **David Legg (DL):** Regional Manager, UKRI
Apologies:	**Linda King:** Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Research and Global Partnerships Oxford Brookes University **Chas Bountra (CB):** Pro Vice-Chancellor for Innovation, University of Oxford **Ian Chapman (IC):** CEO, United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority **Simonetta Manfredi** (**SMf):** Associate Dean for Research & KE Oxford For Linda King
In attendance:	**Stuart Wilkinson (SW):** Deputy Director, Research Services, Oxford University **Thandiwe Hara-Msulira (THM):** OxLEP **Ahmed Goga (AG):** OxLEP **Alexandra Capata (AC):** OxLEP **Natalie Egan (NE):** OxLEP **Peter Russell (PR):** OxLEP **Hannah Wood (HW):** Innovate UK **James Doughty (JD):** Innovate UK **Dave Wilkes (DW):** Innovate UK **David Hartley (DH):** Oxford Brookes **Ross Burton (RB):** BEIS

	Item	Lead
1.	**Welcome, Introductions and Apologies were said (Chair)** Apologies were received from Simonetta Manfredi Sebastian Johnstone and Chas Bountra	Lesley Thompson (Chair)
2.	**Matters Arising & Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd of February 2021** The minutes were confirmed as a true record of the meeting in February 2021	Lesley Thompson
3.	**Innovate UK - Presentation (David Legg, Hannah Wood, *James Doughty*)** *A discussion on how existing Innovate UK initiatives are supporting the Oxfordshire economy, where the gaps are, and a discussion on a range of agendas plus an upcoming Innovation Strategy.* **AG** – This presentation is a result of a discussion at a previous OxLEP Board Meeting which explored how the Oxfordshire ecosystems is engaging with UKRI. It was felt that there is a need to engage UKRI in a deep dive discussion in which the UKRI team can present data, building on the R&D Road Map, and the forth the coming innovation strategy and a number of other areas like the investment plan. **David Legg (DL)** **DL:** We will provide an overview, context, analysis and data of innovate UK programmes including what is going on in Oxfordshire. ▪ **Indro Mukherjee** is now the new UKRI Chief Executive. He is very experienced in technology and the private sector, and is positive about working with Innovate UK, including the great work done around Covid **Oxfordshire Headlines** Some of the key Oxfordshire messages arising from UKRI work are: ▪ Oxfordshire is a highly innovative area and with real strength in innovation and research, and significant business attraction centres. There are high application and success rates from Oxford. ▪ There is a mixture in the portfolio of businesses, including small and medium ones, but also a larger share of micro businesses, and this is where UKRI may make a difference. ▪ In 2020, there has been some switch from high value to high volume applications and there is a lot of agility in switching funding. This probably reflects a Covid “response mode” but it is good news in terms ideas and pipelines for the future. ▪ One interesting observation is how Oxford is well connected to other regions through collaborative R & D and Industrial Challenge fund– This shows Oxford as an innovation engine and speaks well to the levelling up agenda.	*David Legg* *Hannah Wood* *James Doughty*

- UKRI also responds to a number of recovery plan issues e.g.
    - **Reskilling** – the Knowledge Transfer Networks run a number of events on opportunities and working with a research base to accelerate ideas.
    - **Knowledge Transfer Partnerships** –There is a small number of these between the two Oxford Universities, but generally they don't seems to be popular in Oxfordshire. There is need to help transformational change. e.g. in AI platforms that can cut across technology for the charitable sector
    - **New management KTP -** None have been awarded to Oxford so this might be an area to explore and raise awareness.
    - **Innovate Edge** is available for mentoring and helping businesses become resilient. There are some responsive calls and innovation loans for follow-on funding to get businesses to get into market.
    - **Reviving and connectivity** – Whole collaboration of R/D – pipeline of projects and emerging technology sectors, and plenty of opportunities to grow and connect.

Since 2007 IUK has supported:

- 569 companies
- 1780 projects
- £721million

This is just public money going into Oxfordshire. We need to build on these and make sure they are successful in the ecosystem

Catapult Network

These accelerate the application of research and work with small/medium and large businesses, research organisations academia and government.

- Access to expertise, equipment and support in technology growth areas. A significant number of these are in the South East of the country.
- These are there to help businesses who may need access or brokerage between research groups, working with academia and government, on a range of areas such as digital, energy systems and connecting places.
- The satellite application catapults are the upstream and down-stream of space technologies.
- They offer a range of opportunities to connect. They are funded through the main grant, but moving towards a "responsive mode" grant scheme throughout the year for any business.

Bespoke Funded support

- Support for businesses to protect themselves, including how to have licenced technology and IP.

- Focus on innovation
- Encourage businesses to sign up and to secure funding and working on scale up.

Offers connections to:

- Funding options
- New markets
- Helping researcher with entrepreneurship skills to create spin outs.
- In Oxfordshire, this has supported 3 SMEs with one to one support and help with developing new products and securing additional funding.

Loans and Grants

- Responsive Mode – Any market technology
- Government Funding via managed programmes in key industries
- Industrial Strategy Challenge Funds – These are around the grand challenges: an Ageing society, AI and Data Economy, Future of Mobility and Clean Growth.

Data Insight on Innovate UK - Hannah Wood

2020 was a significant and unique year in terms of funding. Innovate UK reacted to the changes in the innovation land scape, so it is difficult to compare it with other years. OxLEP can also have a look at other comparable LEPS e.g. Buckinghamshire, or Cambridgeshire.

- UKRI has produced a paper which is also an interactive chart that is looking at Innovate UK grant funding data.
- The aim is to trigger discussion and thought on the innovation land scape and potential opportunities
- Generally, there was a steady churn of funding until 2012, and then a large spike in 2018, driven by significant uplift for CRD funding and funding awarded to start catapult and the VMMIC.
- Transport has remained consistent but there has been an increase in the Technology or Smart funding e.g. Robotics and Quantum. ,
- 2020 total grant funding has been huge, in part due to Covid funding.
- New businesses who had never applied for IUK funding came forward, and a good number of SME representation and this is good for longer term business growth, noting that it takes a long time for these to take effect, general UKRI tend to issue results 3-5 years after with an interventions.
- The interactive map shows different regions and distribution. A range of sectors are stronger in different regions but transport is a common theme across all regions
    - Medicine - Scotland, London
    - Quantum - Scotland
    - Wales – Industrial decarbonisation
- The distribution of application are similar between Oxford and Cambridge though more companies are apply from Cambridge than Oxford. Distance is not a barrier for interaction and partnerships.

James Doughty

- Oxfordshire is the largest recipient by a margin in terms of grant offer as well as GVA –but there is also a small number of very large grants – e.g. Faraday – VMMIC, diagnosis and precision medicine.
- The University received a wide range of grants totalling 33m.
- It is also good to appreciate where is the money flowing, which city is Oxford working with and what kind of technologies.

Questions:

AG – How many of the businesses are accessing full suite of services available? The numbers may appear that we are doing well, but these may be concentrated in a particular suite of institutions?

Ross Burton (BEIS)

- The amount of funding going to the SE may appear disproportionate, but it is proportionate to the number of businesses in that region. We have got a list of how much money and grants are awarded – e.g. number of companies expected to bid, and we expect Oxford to be well represented.
- The majority are collaborating R/D businesses.
- We can look at historic data to detect any difference in growth in those areas including looking at the context of Beauhurst data to see the context.
- We have started looking at the investments businesses are receiving after an Innovate UK grant. To be able to see how they are doing research and development activity, determine how that can be tracked, the outcomes, e.g. jobs and values of how businesses are benefitting.
- 50% of the companies that have receive angel investment have received Innovate UK grant.

SHP: How can we combine this date to other data? This could enable us answer questions like:

- Which companies are doing well?
- What impact they are having?
- is there benefit in longitudinal tracking of companies which receive Innovate UK funding?
- How can we track them over the next few years and see how they are performing?

RB: We will further explore ways in which we can solidify the information.

AG : This is well linked to previous ideas about creating a dashboard that can support with tracking a basket of companies as a product of this group for 2021/22

DL: This is an opportunity to bring together disparate data sets that could be helpful in creating the fuller picture, i.e. where we have been, where we are

	now and in the future – This will play to the strength of the regional development.	
4.	IFSB is an ERDF funded support programme delivered by OxLEP and other organisations. **Innovation Support for Business (ISfB)** IFSB is an ERDF funded business support programme delivered by OxLEP. ▪ The take up of the service is dominated by micro and small businesses and many are start-ups. There is an opportunity now to engage with other segments of the market as enquiries from early stage companies can be handled by the Growth Hub. This will facilitate an increased focus on innovation matters. ▪ There are plans to design a peer to peer programme for ISfB clients but the focus is on promoting the core peer to peer offer. ▪ Much of the team's time is spent on advising on and administering the ISfB innovation grants. ▪ The ISfB programme has funded facilities at Bicester and Begbroke and continues to promote these alongside other local centres of expertise and resources. ▪ Several Innovation Briefings have been delivered – the most recent one in collaboration with Begbroke. ▪ Although most targets and programme objectives have been met there remains a challenge to engage businesses in meaningful projects with the research and knowledge base.	Peter Russell, OxLEP
5.	**Knowledge Exchange Framework** *Update on the KEF Exercise at Oxford University and Oxford Brookes.* **SW - Oxford** The KEF seeks to increase efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public funding for Knowledge Exchange and to further a culture of continuous improvement. It uses Higher Education Business Community Interaction (HEBCI) data for the previous 3 years, supplemented with other UKRI data and 3 additional narratives. This is a relatively new way of assessing how universities engage with business and community partners. It is not the same degree of burden as the Research Excellence Framework, but it is another way of comparing and benchmarking UK universities. The metrics are not robust on their own so they are supplemented by the narrative and data **OXFORD's Performance:** ▪ Oxford performed above average for its Cluster (V) in six of the seven perspectives ▪ They are in the top 10% of all HE institutions in: - Working with Business, - Working with the Public and Third Sector - IP and Commercialisation - Public and Community Engagement.	Stuart Wilkinson and David Hartley

- Top 20% of all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) for Research Partnerships.
- Top 20% (or 2 deciles) for Skills, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship. This is above the average for cluster V, and top 50% of all HEIs
- Two deciles below the average for cluster V for the seventh perspective Local Growth and Regeneration. – This is the bottom 30% of all HEI's
- Skills enterprise and entrepreneurships – Includes CPD and the proportion of students who go to do start-ups, though there are many other outcomes for these.
- Oxford did well in skills and enterprise, but did not do very well on the Local Growth and Regeneration – However, this metric is about how much local regeneration money you access.

DH - Brookes

The compiled charts may not be very helpful in presenting the contextual picture but they might help with working out where gaps are and how they can be addressed. Universities are encouraged to do a much wider portfolio than tech Transfer.

- Brookes is in Group E, which includes the professional and technical Universities.
- This was probably aimed at helping businesses to work out the right universities to work with, but it may also lead to a narrow conversation around senior universities and the universities focused bits of the Govt.
- Brookes is in the top 10% of its cluster (E)
- They have performed very well in the research and public sector.
- Did not do well on skills and entrepreneurship

Challenges include:

- How to represent all the things that are happening across the sector.
- How visible is this information beyond supporting policy decisions and why does this matter

AG – Does the KEF cover diversity issues? e.g. how we are supporting diversity in senior teams etc.?

SW - The KEF is about retrospective data, but alongside it, we are also writing a forward looking Knowledge Exchange Strategy for the next five years. This has 12 priorities across 3 areas; Business and Economy, Region and Place and Society. EDI is a cross cutting theme across all these.

DH - The EDI issues are not foregrounded on how to complement priority objectives. Brookes has also put EDI as a cross cutting theme.

SW – The matric will be reviewed in the autumn.

6. **Connecting Global** — Natalie Egan, OxLEP

Update on connecting global.

We are looking to creating a digital platform, that involves pulling together 'the Oxford offer' as a global ecosystem

- Project is progressing well, the project plan and time lines are crys tallising both for the technical site build and content development.
- We are exploring how we can unlock investment into the project to resource content and are also identifying candidates for user testing.

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- We have selected Castus as the web designers for the platform – offering continuity as they worked on the previous Oxford Cluster site. They are very keen to be involved and to grasp the overall concept, aims and ambitions of the project. They are currently researching similar sites and putting together a website proposal for our review. The site build is expected to take around 5 months.
- We are exploring sample data provided by Beauhurst to create the cluster map but may need to explore other options- for example Science and Business Park directories

AG

This will be an Oxfordshire platform and the content will include video, focused pieces of work.

- The ISG could have a testing session in the summer as the site is developed.
- It would be great for everyone to contribute their thoughts on the sort of things we could feature on the platform. These could include – who we feature, how we feature and how we capture. These could be ‘pitch-book’ examples of what the ecosystem is achieving or a range of things we want to bring.
- We are aiming for an autumn launch possibly October or November
- We are also trying to capture – a basket of businesses that best reflect the ecosystem.
- We need to work out the best description of what the ecosystem has to offer. There are potentially 1500 companies as target to sample through and 800 are with Beauhurst. We will need to resample them
- Beuhurst have been cleansing their sample but they look at it differently which means there is always a risk of leaving other businesses or including the ones that should not be included.
- There is some thinking to be done on advise and where we should continue with Beurhurst or whether we go back to ONS which may be bigger data but not focused.

SH – Data is a challenging issue. We will never capture it all perfectly. The only way is to pull in a number of parallel data sets cross reference them. There is some good starting point with Innovate UK, and the Scale-Up institute also has some data. If we can cross reference these types of samples it may be immediately apparent what data is missing, what type of companies, and we may want to focus on that.

- Manual cleansing of data may be required to get a better picture.
- We also need to make sure that we have principles of inclusion in place

Action : All to give their thoughts and contributions on what sorts of things the site could feature.

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LEP Update

Update on LEP work and IP report for noting

- AG noted IP report for information
- There is a review of how LEPS work and CEO will give a written update to the board meeting on 8th June and we will report to this group after that.

</td><td>Ahmed Goga</td></tr>
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	AoB - We need to move the meeting to early part of September to around the September Second week of Sept. Dates will be circulated. **Action:** AC to organise proposed dates.	
9.	**Any Other Business** Dates of the next meetings ▪ *8th of September, 3pm – 5pm* ▪ *8th of December, 2:30pm - 4:30pm*	All