



Innovation Sub-Group Meeting

Wednesday 8th December 2021, 14:30 – 16:30

Virtual Microsoft Team Meeting

Draft Minutes

Members present:	<p>Sarah Haywood Price (SHP): Managing Director, Advanced Oxford Roger Neal (RN): Technical Services Manager, Sophos UK Jane Galsworthy (JG): Managing Director, Oxford Innovation Services Agne Milukaite (AM): Founder, Cycle Land Stuart Martin (SM): CEO, Satellite Applications Catapult Andrew Harrison (AH): CEO, Diamond Light Source Linda King: Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research & Global Partnerships, Oxford Brookes University Chas Bountra (CB): Pro Vice-Chancellor for Innovation, University of Oxford Adam Stoten (AS): SVP Academic Partnerships, Evotec Paul Beasley (PB): Prof of Energy Systems and Head of R&D Siemens UK</p>
Apologies:	<p>Lesley Thompson (LT): VP Academic and Government Strategic Alliance, Elsevier Ian Chapman (IC): CEO, United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority James Colgate (JC): Operations Director, Williams Grand Prix Engineering Barbara Ghinelli (BG): Director, Business Development and Clusters, Harwell Campus (STFC) David Legg (DL): Regional Manager, UKRI</p>
In attendance:	<p>Stuart Wilkinson (SW): Deputy Director, Research Services, Oxford University Simonetta Manfredi (SMf): Associate Dean for Research & KE Oxford For Linda King Thandiwe Hara-Msulira (THM): Strategy Development Executive, OxLEP Ahmed Goga (AG): Director of Strategy and Programmes, OxLEP Nigel Tipple (NT): Chief Executive, OxLEP Alexandra Capata (AC): Strategy Development Assistant, OxLEP Natalie Egan (NE): Inward Investment Executive, OxLEP Sebastian Johnson (SJ): Head of Innovation and Inward Investment, OxLEP Tracy James (TJ): European Programme Executive, OxLEP</p>

	Item	Lead
1.	<p>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>Apologies: Lesley Thomson, Ian Chapman, James Colgate, Barbara Ghinelli, David Legg</p>	Stuart Martin
2.	<p>Matters Arising & Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th of September 2021</p> <p>Minutes were approved as true reflection of previous meeting</p>	Stuart Martin
3.	<p>LEP Update and Spending Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nigel will be supporting the group due to Ahmed's impending departure. ▪ Review of LEPs – On the previous timetable, this was supposed to be concluded by Early July, but this has not happened, with attention being placed on policy papers. ▪ The hope is to define and redefine where we are adding value, on all issues. Including climate change, Net zero and reinforcing the role LEPs are playing on the innovation agenda. ▪ There are various work streams including issues of geography, such as dealing with a lack of alignment in mayoral and combined local areas. There are also issues of accountability – reinforcing transparent and accountability and of future funding. ▪ There were no major changes in the CSR announcements. ▪ The levelling up white paper is expected before Xmas, and the intention is to create a route map for working with LPS moving forward. However, this timetable is likely to slip into January and it is unlikely that a formal conclusion to the LEP review will be done before the levelling up paper is concluded. ▪ In the context of these impending changes, the Board has decided that they will plan for next 2 years (Up to March 24) and the financial resources are in place to support this plan. ▪ We have only received 50% of core funding and the second half will be received before the ends of the financial year. ▪ We have a budget in place to continue with the work we are doing, including the connecting global programme. ▪ We need to be aware of the deadlines and to be aware of where we are and of the 2-year horizon that we are working to. ▪ There is a new Secretary of State to the treasury. ▪ There is a clear position and direction of travel from the Board. <p>AG: the key assurance and clarity from the board is that we will continue for next 2 years.</p>	Nigel Tipple
4.	<p>UK Innovation Strategy: Next Steps: Oxfordshire BEIS Working Paper Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We have been working on the briefing paper following a session with Shahid Omer. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the paper and the ideas. 	Ahmed Goga on behalf of Ross Burton

- We have had a follow up conversation with BEIS following the paper, which was well received, our discussion reinforced the number of areas we proposed, including:
 - the work to support supply chains, and encourage commercialisation and R/D
 - how we develop super clusters and leveraging the strength around mission technologies that the strategy has set up
 - how to support scale up and business growth, given that there are no mechanisms for supporting these.
- BEIS is keen to engage with us in areas we set up to build on specific policy themes.
- We need to work out how the strategy can evolve in the ecosystem and understand the underlying politics.
- The levelling up narrative is important and there could be some band width to create innovation deals in areas that need acceleration of these activity.
- The chance of an Oxford deal remains difficult, however, they are clear that the ability to deliver the strategy is impossible without Oxfordshire.
- These issues need to be looked at within the national research space, e.g. how do we maximise the opportunity in the Nurse review?
- Set a frame on how we can work together and how we support them deliver their Agenda.
- They were interested in the talent development in the paper.

Action: THM to arrange next steps meetings with Ross, Emily and Shahid.

Dean Cook: Heads up regional engagement in England and is part of the team Associate programme director for Strength in Places Fund.

- There is a strong mandate for IUK and their role and an expectation that there would be a “place” innovation strategy.
- There is a huge expectation around the innovation funding and how it supports levelling up in a fiscal environment. There may be some difficult choices to be made between delivering levelling up and national capability.
- There is a multi-year settlement increase of £20bn by 2024/25 in the Spending Review.
- There is a manifesto commitment to increase public spending in R&D and the commitment to the 2.4% remains, but the pace of the uplift has been slowed down.
- Covid had diverted government decisions, though R&D is one of the winners. We welcome news in the uplift, and this may help with innovation driven growth.
- The allocation process is still going on, so the picture for the next 3 years is still emerging. The action plan is a statement of intent, but we will get in the habit of annual delivery plans as was the case before the SR of 2015.
- There are programmes that meet in the middle in how innovation may be shared. e.g. The UK shared prosperity fund, and also a lot of stuff in the ERDF is complementary to the IUK mission, but here is need for alignment.

- Government is interested in where we are investing. 64% of the funding went outside London and the great SE, so you could argue that we are already doing levelling up. We can also evaluate how National infrastructure set up in clusters gives regional strength and scalability and have a role to play in levelling up other areas. We could pump prime cluster building outside of London and greater SE and can pilot it.
- There could be another wave of SIPF, the main point goes back to outcomes and place-based outcomes.
- The UKRI – has a regional active team with deep relationships in regions. The question is: What other parts of the country can their investment build growth and national capability? We need to make sure that we are leveraging place capability to strength UK capability.
- IUK is a national innovation agency. The key challenge is how to connect national to local offers. Coherence, simplicity and local impact. We need to stimulate conversation. Discussion and stronger partnerships where we have the greatest impact and capability development.
- UKRI and IUK are the powerhouse for innovation that can anchor activity, and work in partnership to pull that convening power. We need to make sure that levelling up is not about taking and redistributing the money or levelling down.
- **Investment community** – How can they work with us to wake up the investment opportunity in other places so we can collectively level up?

AS: The Focus seems to be on inputs than outputs. At some point it will have to be on outcomes.

NT: There are challenges with the Levelling Up. It is very difficult to understand what it means other than moving money and spending it in poorer places. But this doesn't necessarily create more money. Is there any way of using case studies to bring this to life? Otherwise, it's a binary cash movement process.

DC: We have sold the benefits of innovation, that it is seen as important to most challenges. However, we need absorptive capacity in the regions, which is why the important thing is building business clusters, as many clusters will generate money while others have no capacity but tremendous potentials for absorption. We need to understand how this will be done.

NT: There is a range of regional work around satellite including Cornwall and IoS and work around off shore wind production with Humberside, and tech capability and elsewhere. Here are areas where we could work with Emily and others on how we can bring to life some of these.

SM: We need to create an alternative narrative around how we justify investing in more of our industrial assets. We need to make sure that we are still investing in to make return.

SH: How will we respond if we don't get any of that money moving forward?

NT: We have leveraged significant additional funding to support some of those funding. There are some resources, but levelling up white paper will give us a steer in where we sit in that.

AG: The Govt may be betting on the private sector putting up the investment. How do we as an ecosystem help businesses to support the investment in R&D and how do we usefully measure this? E.g., how many businesses have used the super deduction in tax reduction whether it has been taken up.

	<p>There is a range of fiscal measure and we need to keep driving. Second area which is key. The innovation investment area that will be vital is around infrastructure – how do we as an ecosystem, apply the pressure and engage to be successful?</p> <p>One of the biggest challenges is to get the investment that has been identified to deliver the campus expansion we want to see. These are big bets that create massive investments. We need to quadruple the space, but we also know that there is a skills challenge. How do you attract and retain talent? There has to be meaningful investment in skills and workforce strategy and complementarity and an overall talent pool.</p> <p>DC: How do we stimulate private sector investment and tap into the intensive R&D global investments?</p> <p>On clusters let's look at the right models. Boston is the size of the UK. Globally the UK is a regional cluster, but we have parts of the puzzles in that we connect niche areas, and this may give us national areas of focus. This is a conversation we can come back to, perhaps after the White Paper is out.</p> <p>TSM: We need to highlight the importance of how what we have in the Oxford region can leverage government investment. We also Innovation adoption – the areas we are strong market pools – we have poor rates of adoption across the economy. There is no market to innovation companies. If we can help develop stronger innovation adoption that will be useful</p> <p>PB: Things they look for – centres for excellence – the thing that doesn't help is that they always seem to be time bound. The problem here is that you get funding for 2-3 years and then Govt walks away. Why would private sector stick around? Nobody seems to want to address these major issues.</p>	
<p>5. ISfB Programme</p>	<p><i>Updates on the C26 Outcomes</i></p> <p>The programme is now 12 months left until December 2022. The programme is on target apart from C26 outcomes.</p> <p>The programme is providing 1:1 advice webinars for SME</p> <p>Go Create Grants changed the match requirement to 40:60.</p> <p>3 more grants were approved with capital money still available – ideas on how the capital money could be spent are welcomed.</p> <p>TJ can update at the next meeting on any updates on the Net Zero marketing campaign.</p> <p>C26 updates from the last meeting which are compliant.</p> <p>Action: TJ to share the type of collaborations are sitting behind the programme.</p> <p>Action: TJ to share a full summary explaining the process for the programme with the qualifying criteria included for the capital funds.</p>	<p>Tracy James</p>
<p>6. Connecting Global</p>	<p>Quick update for the Oxford Calling Digital platform creating for the Connecting Global programme – should have received the updated pitch book – shared with OxLEP Board.</p>	<p>Natalie Egan</p>

Following the feedback and input from the user testing with Castus in September the website designs were finalized, and technical build commenced in September.

The live development site is now built and undergoing testing and debugging by Castus and ensuring the site works across all devices.

The site has been populated with trial content to demonstrate the functionality of the categories and this is continuing as we work to test and refine the site

OxLEP's PR agency, Tala, commissioned to produce fresh original content for launch in February which including an Oxford Calling intro video, articles and opinion pieces focused on promoting key sectors and international themes.

Working with partners from across the ecosystem to contribute stories, connect to industry leads for participation in opinion pieces and repurpose non-time sensitive existing content.

Discussions with ICON group (Innovation Communications Oxfordshire Network) consisting of marketing leads across the ecosystem are taking place to coordinate content planning and contributions for year one.

Progress has been made on the Cluster Mapping as well.

Next steps:

- Further refinement and beta testing of the site over Christmas and the New Year period subject to feedback from the Innovation subgroup and OxLEP Board. Feedback sessions will be arranged in the New Year.
- Ongoing development of original content and repurposed material ready for February launch leading into April. Development of digital strategy and content planning for Year One.
- Social media campaign during pre-launch January window ready for a soft launch in February 2022 followed by a virtual/in person official launch event in March/April 2022.

AG: Thank you to all of you for your contributions both in the working sessions and also separately as well, which is really valuable and it is really helped inform thinking on it. There is a constant refresh of making sure it's customer centric, focused on the business, the innovator, the entrepreneur, the investor. And really, thinking through how that makes the necessary connections in different markets and like of it as well.

There's high ambition, so the cluster mapping work for example that Natalie is alluded to. We didn't settle on just the datasets that were coming through. We wanted to constantly refine it.

The involvement of the Innovation Sub-Group moving forward is going to be really important.

This is about building the community. Many of the comms people – the aggregation of the information and the near-term campaigning – hugely exciting piece.

AG: We will convene a special one hour session, probably in Jan so that the group can collectively have a proper look at this before it goes live as well. There's another opportunity again to just walk through, test all the rest of it as well. We want to make sure that it is absolutely fits with the sort of the direction of travel that the group had set out as well.

NE: Will send a link for people to test before the feedback.

5.

Any Other Business

All

SM: Oxford Brookes in collaboration with OxLEP will develop a new enterprise center which will be helpful and useful addition to the recovery and innovation strategy. It will be an enterprise center to provide spaces for and opportunities for networking.

We're also placing an important role on equality and diversity which are now being included as KPIs.

The other development that we have got is a help to grow scheme details have been circulated prior to the meeting.

AG's last meeting as he is moving into another role leading the regional policy and cluster development at CBI.

Dates of the 2022 meetings:

- 24th of February, 2:30pm-4:30pm
- 6th of June, 2:30pm- 4:30pm
- 1st of September, 2:30pm-4:30pm
- 1st of December, 2:30pm - 4:30pm