

INNOVATION COUNCIL MEETING • 21 MARCH 2017

- Review of activities of the Innovation Council over the last year.

Recruitment of members from cross sector backgrounds. Mary's vision that the Council should be innovative in its approach and activities and predominantly be events led. 3 themes selected: Agrifood, digital and creative, Health and Social care. 5 major events over the year with 241 attendees. Website developed and live. Launch of the ESIF programme - 52 enrolled and 27 companies have received support. Council members assigned roles to support key elements of the programme.

Discussion led by Liz Shutt, Director of Policy at University of Lincoln. 'Industrial Strategy engagement, how do we support innovation and growth in Greater Lincolnshire'

- How to tackle the long standing issue of discovery versus commercialisation
- Government moving to piloting and testing new ideas
- Focusing on 6 per cent of companies who are high growth
- Leapfrog a revolution to Industry 4.0
- Visitor economy and benefits of big data
- Leveraging private sector income
- The importance of meaningful business networks to drive innovation - Consider invitation only events and combine with EU funding for leadership programme. Run as a pilot.
- Importance of place making
- Leadership development and capacity building needed - change language to encourage uptake of training and development.
- Continuity of support required for businesses over time
- Risk sharing, identifying gaps in investment and create a local solution.
- Midlands Engine offer of equity based loans launched
- Reticence in Lincolnshire to consider export
- Are there the right actors at National level? - secondments from and to Whitehall
- Using local brands e.g. AVG to drive innovation

Discussion led by Ruth Carver regarding LEP priorities

- Sector strengths - Agrifood, advanced manufacture & engineering, Low carbon agenda and visitor economy. In future to include health and ports and logistics
- Infrastructure including skills
- Placemaking - to increase Lincolnshire economy to £ 3.2 billion by 2020 - on track but GVA (productivity) per head is not high enough. Create 13,000 jobs by 2020
- To support 22,000 businesses - to date on 7-8 K have been reached despite a number of programmes and initiatives.
- Create 5,000 new homes per annum. Currently only 2k and lower than previous year. Consider new construction methods
- Importance of turning up the volume and promoting business confidence - IC can play a key role in this.
- Visitor economy needs innovation
- Business development and productivity are key issues. Issues of high numbers of family business and their level of ambition
- Focus on the 'sharing economy'



-
- Invite LEP representatives to IC events and meetings
 - Consider using levels of investment in innovation as a measure of improvement.
 - What does success look like by the end of next year – the LEP to have a higher ambition for innovation.
 - Take IC thinking and put it in the right place at the LEP to change practice. e.g. Growth Hub to change focus to 6 per cent of companies that are high growth. Increase number of innovative companies applying for and winning awards.
 - University of Lincoln is sponsoring Innovation award this year and will use as a promotional platform.

