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## INNOVATION COUNCIL MEETING • 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPT 2016 • NATIONAL CENTRE OF FOOD MANUFACTURING - HOLBEACH

• Introduction to Holbeach – ‘Fork to Farm’ offering for businesses from micro to multinational. The centre is linked to the College of Science at the University of Lincoln central campus. The centre also offers support services from the University including professional education, skills development, apprenticeships to PHD. The Centre has a turnover of £5 million from research bids and commercial contracts. 250 SME’s were assisted with skills and innovation by the Centre last year.

• The Innovation Programme for Greater Lincolnshire was launched 1 September. Key promotional activities include celebrating success and raising awareness events.

• The programme offers an internship programme, Leadership and Management course, Proof of Concept Fund with 50% match funding up to £10,000. Innovation vouchers based on the Innovate UK model which are no longer available). 6 sector events over the next 12 months including an Innovation conference in 2017. The innovation Conference will provide more networking opportunities and greater facilitated interaction than last year in response to delegate feedback.

• Sue Cadd asked the Council for ideas on training and support requirements for business – suggestions included pitching and soft skills, links with Venture Capitalists and investors and advice on how to link with other business support programmes.

• All events should be inspirational, aspirational and drive ambition. Attendees are there to learn and develop not see it as an opportunity to sell their product/service.

• The themes for the next two meetings have been set as the following:

- March - Setting a transformational goal for next three years/ Understanding what the economy will look like in 10/20 years – lead by Ruth Carver
- June - Smart Cities – lead by John Latham

• Future themes for the Innovation Council could include the LEP industrial strategy and the implications and opportunities presented by Brexit.

• Road trips – IC to provide suggestions for companies/organisations to visit. Intend to run three per annum. Entry to the road trip programme should be competitive, numbers will be controlled. Initial thoughts – JLR, Space Centre, ABF, Sharp Project Manchester. The group should be small, encourage engagement and could include overnight stays. Provide sand pits to encourage discussion of business problems and solutions. The following themes were discussed:

- Innovation in manufacturing
- Innovation in distribution centres
- Innovation in digital marketing

### Other road trip ideas:

- Innovation around the management of water and trade waste in conjunction with Anglian Water.
- This is an area of focus for the LEP. Suggested that the Council approach the LEP to offer its support.
- Formula 1 Cluster
- Cycling – Velodrome Manchester
- BT Cluster Ipswich

• Linked to the road trips we could hold a series of sandpits to solve corporate problems. A suggestion for the first one was GSK



• Discussion topic - Martin kindly agreed to lead: He proposed the need for innovation in the food chain and how innovation from other sectors could help the food chain to become more productive and sustainable, key points were:

- Changes in consumer behaviour and their impact on new product development – e.g. provenance
- Pressures of Brexit
- Pressures of Living Wage
- Cost of production
- Waste management – funding is available and work needs to be done to launch and drive this agenda.
- Technology led growth – food processes and supply chain
- Midlands Engine – Lincolnshire provides the entire food chain – growing, processing to distribution to the supermarket. It is the largest food processing area in the country.
- Agrifood businesses need breadth and depth of support.
- Clusters will help to get scale and investment. Business wants access to research.

• Next meeting 6th December 2016

