

Review of Digital Innovation

1. This short paper is to update the Council for Economic Development on the progress made in taking forward the **Review of Digital Innovation**, led by Professor Phil Brown of Cardiff University. The highlights include:
 - the launch of a Call for Evidence which will close on the 2 November 2018;
 - the commissioning of a number of briefing papers and analytical work to underpin the review; and,
 - the development of an Engagement and Influencing Plan with key partners.
2. The above will be critical in shaping the interim report, which will be published by the end of November.

Expert Panel and key meetings

3. The expert panel has met twice. The July meeting was held in London and involved speakers from Tech UK (the industry body for the technology industry across the UK), the UK Government's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Greater London Authority. This was a useful exercise in understanding the work being taken forward in other parts of the UK and how the UK Government's Industrial Strategy is progressing.
4. The August expert panel meeting took evidence from the Development Bank for Wales and the Swansea Bay City Deal. Both presentations provided useful scene setting in understanding the investment projects being taken forward in Wales. Professor Brown will be meeting separately with the Cardiff Capital Regional City Deal to discuss their work.
5. The Panel has also now been strengthened with the addition of the following members on the basis of their individual areas of expertise:
 - Karen Cherrett, economic development and local public services specialist at PA Consulting, a UK consultancy specialising in management consulting, technology and innovation. I have met with Karen and invited her to the most recent panel meeting as a guest. I feel her insight and ideas would be of value to the review.
 - Kirsten Bound, Executive Director of Research, Analysis and Policy at Nesta, the UK's innovation foundation which promotes innovation across a broad range of sectors. Nesta have a wide breadth of knowledge which the review would benefit from having access to.
 - Dr. Bertie Muller, Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Science, University of South Wales. Bertie is also Chair of the AISB (Society for the Study of Artificial Intelligence and Simulation of Behaviour), Associate Editor of the journal Connection Science and is currently working with the UK Government's Cabinet

Office on a three year project on the practical implications of ethical AI. His links to a number of UK-wide networks on AI could enhance the profile of the review outside of Wales.

- Mark John, Co-Founder & Director at Tramshed Tech, a collaborative workspace and home to the tech and creative industries of Cardiff. Mark has access to a community of professionals who are at the cutting edge of digital innovation in Wales. His input will benefit the influencing and engagement work being planned by the review.
- Carys Williams, Lloyds Banking Group's Ambassador for Wales. Lloyds are proactively testing the use of AI in the setting of their contact centres, one of which is based in Newport. Given the positioning of the financial services sector in Wales, and the high risk of financial professions from automation and AI, making links to a high profile organisation such as Lloyds would benefit the review.

October seminar

6. A number of experts have been commissioned to produce briefing papers and analytical work to underpin the findings of the review. I have attached a summary of the work being undertaken (see Annex 1). On the 18th and 19th October an extended expert panel meeting will take place where the leads for each briefing paper will present a summary of their findings. This includes experts from Singapore and Denmark, who will provide an international perspective on best practice.

Call for Evidence

7. A Call for Evidence will shortly be released which will provide a mechanism for all stakeholders to make their views heard. The Call for Evidence has been shaped through engagement with social partners and follows a similar exercise being conducted by the Affordable Housing Review. A separate piece of work in conjunction with the Future Generations Commissioner is being undertaken to engage public bodies in Wales and discuss their preparedness when it comes to the application of digital technology.

Influence and Engagement Plan

8. An Influence and Engagement Plan has been developed through consultation with the expert panel, the Review Action Group (which has membership from key social partners) and following advice provided by the Future Generations Commissioner. The plan is a live document which will guide future engagement activity following the completion of the Call for Evidence.

Annex 1: Briefing papers commissioned by the Review

All briefing papers are expected to have completed their work by the end of October 2018 with evidence being presented at an extended panel meeting on the 18th and 19th October.

Labour Market Analytics

To undertake an analysis of changing skill requirements, future of work, and the 'digital' labour market in Wales, with a comparison of other UK regions, based on an analysis of real-time job market data.

International Literature Review

To undertake an international literature review of Automation/Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its impact on jobs, skills, etc. including key trends and drivers for change.

Future of Education and Skills

To undertake a review of the policy initiatives on the future of education and skills in the context of 'digital disruption' and what is called the 'fourth industrial revolution'.

Platform Gig Economy

To undertake an international literature review on the 'platform', 'gig', 'sharing economy' and literature on jobs of the future focusing on the challenges and opportunities for economic activity and social inclusion in Wales.

Industrial Policy Reform

To review initiatives for industrial policy reform in Wales including the main ideas and initiatives proposed in recent UK reports on the digital economy and the implications of Artificial Intelligence (AI)/automation for current and emerging industries and the future of work in Wales.

Data Analytics and Industrial Sectors

To work in collaboration with companies involved in Artificial Intelligence (AI) analytics and make use of their data techniques to develop an innovative approach to digital innovation in Wales and focusing on the areas of future growth in shaping the Welsh economy and future of work.

Overview of Employment in the Welsh Economy

To conduct a statistical overview of employment in Welsh/UK economy and future of work in Wales focused on the changing nature of employment in Wales as well as changes to skills supply and demand.

International Best Practice

This work is divided into two areas:

- Lifelong Learning, Industry Transformation and the Future of Work in Singapore;
and,
- comparative evidence drawing on examples from a number of countries, including Denmark, Israel, the United Arab Emirates and the United States.