

# Innovation Advisory Council for Wales

1<sup>st</sup> December 2017, Swalec Stadium, Cardiff

## Minutes

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Present: Kellie Beirne (KB) (chair)  
Helen Swygart (HS)  
David Notley (DN)  
Sue Bale (SB)  
Robin Williams (RW)  
Jon Wood (JW)  
Andy Middleton (AM)  
Steve Smith (SS)  
Rhys Thomas (RT)

Apologies: Jessica Jones (JJ)  
Kirsten Bound (KBo)

Secretariat: Alastair Davies (AD)  
Philippa Costello (PC)

Guest Speakers: Rob Ashelford (RA) (Y Lab)  
Greg Green (GG) (WG)  
Gavin George (GGe) (WG)

Agenda item		Action
1	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>KB welcomed council members to the 13<sup>th</sup> IACW meeting.</p> <p>KB welcomed RT, Head of Innovation System and Engagement Team at Cardiff University, to Council.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and approved.</p> <p>AM to invite Sophie Howe, Wellbeing of Future Generations Commissioner, to the March 2018 Council meeting.</p> <p>Council members present were asked to indicate any direct or indirect conflicts of interest in the proposed agenda items. No new interests were recorded.</p>	<b>AM</b>
2	<p><b>Guest Speaker – Public Services Testbed – Rob Ashelford, Y Lab</b></p> <p>A strategic outline case for a public services testbed has been submitted to the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal by Y Lab, KB and RT. This links into the wider public sector reform work which is being led by the Welsh Government.</p> <p>RA updated Council on the thinking behind the proposal. A public services testbed is a chance to experiment and develop new ways of delivering public services and tackle the big challenges in society.</p>	

	<p>Kate Raworth's Theory of Data Economics Doughnut is a useful tool to help map and group public sector innovation challenges into themes. The public sector play a role in delivering each theme identified in the doughnut.</p> <p>Examples of existing public sector innovation can be identified under each of the 12 areas that underpin the model, and show how Wales is already innovating in these areas.</p> <p>RA suggested the public sector testbed needs to bring people together, enabling them to undertake some activity and to catalyse some of the ambition of the public sector to change the way people work.</p> <p>It was agreed that IACW will support the testbed.</p>	
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Guest Speaker – Vanguard and Manumix – Gavin George and Greg Green, Welsh Government</b></p> <p>GGe updated the Council on the Vanguard Initiative, set up in 2014, which is a network of 30 EU regions. The Initiative brings regions together to share best practice and knowledge on 5 key technology areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3D printing;</li> <li>• Manufacturing;</li> <li>• Energy;</li> <li>• bio economy;</li> <li>• nano technology.</li> </ul> <p>The focus is on TRL 5 (commercialisation and product development) and above.</p> <p>GG manages the Manumix project, which is an Innovation policy mix evaluation Interreg project in advanced manufacturing. There are 4 partner regions involved in the project which are NW Italy, Lithuania, Bilbao and Wales.</p> <p>GG mentioned 2 Manumix meetings have already taken place, in Italy and Bilbao. The next Manumix meeting will be held in Lithuania in April. If Council would like to join GG as an expert stakeholder to learn about innovation policy in Lithuania, all expenses will be covered.</p> <p>The learning journey meeting will be coming to Wales next summer. Please send any suggestions and ideas for visits and agenda items to GG.</p> <p>GG to circulate note on WFG.</p> <p>DN volunteered to be involved in the Manumix and VI projects.</p>	<p><b>IACW</b></p> <p><b>GG</b></p> <p><b>DN</b></p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>IACW Update</b></p> <p>Workplans 2018 – KB reminded Council what the current workplans are – NIB, WFG, Public Service Innovation, and Collaboration,</p>	

	<p>which was noted are not aligned to the Industrial Strategy. It was agreed that IACW needs to become more action focused and more challenging. Council need to identify key areas and ascertain what will be needed in 10-15 years which Wales can be a part of.</p> <p>The Reid Review recommendations are not due until early 2018. HEFCW will be abolished and replaced by Research and Innovation Wales which will be a funder of QR and focus on university research and innovation and not business innovation and research. Innovation Hubs led by industry are believed to be discussed in the review but have not been defined.</p> <p>AD updated Council on changes within WG. The Innovation and Skills departments now report to Ken Skates and not Julie James and Kirsty Williams. David Rosser has been appointed Chief Regional Officer for South East Wales who will be tasked with producing a business plan for the region. The Economic Action Plan is due to be released on 12<sup>th</sup> December. It will focus on a regional approach instead of a sectoral approach. Andrew Slade is the new Director General of Economy, Skills and Natural Resources, replacing James Price, who is leaving end of 2017.</p> <p>It was decided that a workshop will be arranged for January after the Economic Action Plan, Reid Review recommendations and DR's role and business plan have been announced to agree the Councils priorities and workplans for 2018.</p> <p>It was agreed that members should become more involved in activity in between Council meetings.</p>	<p><b>PC and IACW</b></p> <p><b>IACW</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>ISCF, Sector Deals, City Deal</b></p> <p>JW updated Council on the Industrial Strategy which was launched end November 2017. The IS contains 5 pillars - Ideas; People; Infrastructure; Business Environment; and Places and identifies 4 Grand Challenge Areas as the industries of the future for the UK:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AI and Data;</li> <li>• Healthy Ageing;</li> <li>• Clean Growth;</li> <li>• Future of Mobility.</li> </ul> <p>Money is aligned to the IS that business and academia can access through the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF) which is run by the UKRI as from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.</p> <p>The ISCF are industry led challenges which have been informed by academics and industry where research excellence exists. The Challenge Fund is part of the £4.7bn National Productivity Fund. The 1<sup>st</sup> 6 challenges were launched early summer in Wave 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medicines manufacturing technologies;</li> <li>• Robots for a safer world;</li> <li>• Batteries for clean and flexible energy storage;</li> </ul>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism;</li> <li>• Food;</li> <li>• Retail;</li> <li>• Care.</li> </ul> <p>The Economic Action Plan is due to be published on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017.</p>	
<b>7</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Please send suggestions for possible new members to PC.</p> <p>Workshop to be arranged for January 2018 to set future direction of Council.</p> <p>The next IACW meeting is scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018, venue to be confirmed.</p>	<p><b>IACW</b></p> <p><b>PC</b></p>