

# Innovation Advisory Council for Wales

16<sup>th</sup> June 2017, Finance Wales, Cardiff

## Minutes

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Present:	Ian Menzies (IM) (joint chair) Kellie Beirne (KB) (joint chair) Helen Swygart (HS) Steve Smith (SS) Sue Bale (SB) Robin Williams (RW) David Wilkes (DW) Andy Middleton (AM) Kirsten Bound (KBo)
Apologies:	Jessica Jones (JJ) Martin Rhisiart (MR) David Notley (DN)
Secretariat:	Alastair Davies (AD) Philippa Costello (PC)
Guest Speakers:	Rob Hunter (RH) (Finance Wales) Rob Hoyle (RHo) (Welsh Government) Juan Mateos-Garcia (JM-G) (Nesta)

Agenda item		Action
1	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>IM welcomed council members to the 11<sup>th</sup> IACW meeting.</p> <p>IM welcomed KBo, Executive Director of Research, Analysis and Policy at Nesta, to Council.</p> <p>PC to circulate summarised NIB report to Council.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and approved.</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>	PC
2	<p><b>Guest Speaker - Development Bank for Wales – Rob Hunter</b></p> <p>RH updated the Council on the DB4W which aims to be a commercial funder for all Government, delivering across all of WGs priorities. Its primary focus will be to create growth and jobs. There are 3 areas of focus:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) funding support for Welsh SMEs – which will address the gap in provision of finance to SMEs;</li><li>2) non financial support - working with Business Wales;</li><li>3) WG service delivery – supporting WG's repayable or commercial funding programmes.</li></ol>	

	<p>RH said DB4W will be forming an Intelligence Unit working alongside the ONS and Cardiff University to help Government address any gaps in the market and identify where gaps might exist. The DB4W will also signpost to other forms of finance.</p>	
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>IACW Update and Reid Review Update</b></p> <p>RHo advised Council about the Reid Review which came to light because of the Hazlekorn Review, a review into post compulsory education and training in Wales. One of the recommendations of the Hazlekorn Review is to create a PCET body that would encompass all post compulsory education. It also recommended that research and innovation activity should be included in this body. It was therefore agreed that an independent review into research and innovation in Wales should be undertaken - Reid Review. The Review is looking at all Government funded research and innovation, not just WG funded. RHo suggested IACW should respond to both the Hazlekorn consultation and the Reid Review.</p> <p>PC to issue Reid Review questions to Council.</p> <p>PC and KB to collate evidence and responses from IACW to submit to Reid Review (via RHo) by end of June.</p> <p>IM updated Council on recent meeting held with Emma Watkins, Deputy Director of Sectors and Business at WG. Emma has been charged with the review into the external advisory bodies providing advice to Ministers. IM updated Emma on how the Council was formed and established, the number of members, its governance, and the Council successes.</p>	<p><b>IACW</b></p> <p><b>PC</b></p> <p><b>PC &amp; KB</b></p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Guest Speaker – Arloesiadur Update – Juan Mateos-Garcia</b></p> <p>JM-G provided an update on the Arloesiadur project, which aims to transform innovation policy with more and better data. JM-G explained that innovation is about new industries; new clusters; new networks; new communities; a collaboration of ideas with people from different sectors coming together. Data reflecting the above tends not to be available from official data sources. Arloesiadur will be exploring a variety of data sources which will allow us to build a wider view of the innovation system in Wales.</p> <p>The project consisted of 5 stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scoping the project - identify questions to address and areas to focus on;</li> <li>• Run pilots exploring data sources to address the questions from scoping project;</li> <li>• Build the platform; user testing;</li> <li>• Launch the Dashboard;</li> <li>• Expansion of the site to incorporate new data sources.</li> </ul> <p>The website contains 4 areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Networks – networks and connections between different communities;</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trends – industrial activity, research activity;</li> <li>• Industry – Industrial activity in Wales;</li> <li>• Research – research capabilities in different locations in Wales.</li> </ul> <p>Nesta are anticipating Arloesiadur will go live at the end of July. Decisions need to be made into how and when to launch Arloesiadur, with the possibility of a soft launch within the next few weeks, and an official launch at an event in the Autumn.</p> <p>AD to brief the Minister and inform WG Chief Economist about Arloesiadur, once the project has been completed.</p> <p>JM-G to send IACW a proposal on the future upkeep of the Dashboard.</p> <p>PC to produce a communications plan re Arloesiadur.</p>	<p><b>IACW</b></p> <p><b>AD</b></p> <p><b>JM-G</b></p> <p><b>PC</b></p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Strategy Session</b></p> <p>It was agreed that Council needs to refresh its purpose and reposition itself, with a focus on shaping the Councils future purpose and agenda. A possible refresh in the membership was also raised.</p> <p>The issue of branding and communication was raised and needs addressing.</p> <p>PC to send annual review, IACW web page, successes to date, NIB information, WFG to KBo.</p> <p>KBo to send note to Council with suggestions and options on how to take the Council forward.</p> <p>A workshop to be arranged for end of July/beginning of August to be run by Nesta.</p> <p>PC to update the IACW annual review.</p>	<p><b>IACW</b></p> <p><b>PC</b></p> <p><b>KBo</b></p> <p><b>PC</b></p> <p><b>PC</b></p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>IQE Update</b></p> <p>KB briefed the Council on the IQE project which is in progress and on target.</p>	
<b>7</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>IM announced his intention to resign from Council with the next meeting in September being his final meeting.</p> <p>The date for the next IACW meeting is scheduled for Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September, venue to be confirmed.</p>	