

Innovation Advisory Council for Wales

22nd March 2019, Meet Space, Cardiff

Minutes

Present: David Notley (DN) (co-chair)
Kellie Beirne (KB) (co-chair)
Andy Middleton (AM)
Steve Smith (SS)
Claire Durkin (CD)
Ian Brotherston (IB)

Apologies: Sue Bale (SB)
Rhys Thomas (RT)
Helen Swygart (HS)
Kirsten Bound (KB)
Kevin Morgan (KM)

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

Guest Speakers: Prof Phil Brown (PB) (CU)
Matt Hicks (MH) (WG)

Agenda item		Action
1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>DN welcomed council members to the 18th IACW meeting.</p> <p>Council welcomed CD to her first meeting. CD is currently Director of Energy Innovation at BEIS.</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>	
2	<p>IACW Update</p> <p>DN provided an update on the recent meeting he attended with RT and the Minister for Education and Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport to update them on the work and future of IACW. DN explained that he and KB had been due to meet with Ken Skates, Minister for Economy and Transport, in early January but due to the change in Ministerial portfolios, the meeting was re-scheduled. DN highlighted the role of the Council to the Ministers and the meaning and value of innovation, which is not just about research, science and technology. He explained innovation has a broader impact on society, the economy and the environment. DN noted it was a constructive during which the MfE raised the question about how innovation impacts people's everyday lives,</p>	

	<p>and the need to be able to demonstrate what the value of innovation is.</p> <p>It was agreed that IACW has a place in helping to deliver on the manifesto commitments and were invited to feedback to the Ministers on how it can contribute to delivering certain manifesto promises.</p> <p>Discussions with DMfET highlighted his interest in precision agriculture, and queried how we in Wales can improve the solutions that can be marketed outside of Wales. What is relevant to the Welsh economy and what can be leveraged in?</p> <p>Council agreed it needs to concentrate on practical things that are going to result in short term actions that will create longer term impacts. IACW need to create the conditions and levers.</p>	<p>DN and KB</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Review of Digital Innovation</p> <p>The Review of Digital Innovation was announced in March 2018, with the final report expected to be published w/c 17th June 2019.</p> <p>An expert panel comprising mostly of companies and 1-2 academics was established and a call for evidence was launched in September 2018. Responses were received from universities, public services, health boards, local authorities and innovation agencies.</p> <p>An interim report and 3 minute video are due to be published end of March 2019.</p> <p>PB queried what are the areas where Wales can make a difference compared to what's going on elsewhere? Statistics show SMEs in Wales are slow to adapt and many are not Industry 4.0 ready – Wales is similar to the UK in this respect. He declared evidence of digital usage in Wales is increasing.</p> <p>PB asked what are the underlying cross cutting drivers in Wales? From various discussions, PB believes these are the areas where Wales has competitive advantage and what Wales is good at, where it can build new clusters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clean energy and circular economy 2. Professional and creative industries 3. Digital government and public sector transformation 4. Med tech/biotechnology 5. Advanced/smart manufacturing 6. AI/data analytics/cyber security <p>Wales doesn't necessarily currently have competitive advantage in all of these clusters, but if it doesn't act now, it will be at a competitive disadvantage.</p> <p>Please direct any feed back to PB.</p> <p>PC to circulate slides.</p>	<p>IACW</p> <p>PC</p>

5	AOB SS announced he is retiring from the Development Bank at the end of April 2019. It was agreed SS will continue as a member of IACW but it would be a good idea to source a replacement from DB4W to join Council. DN to approach Carol Bell as a potential new member of IACW. The next IACW meeting is scheduled for 14 th June 2019, venue to be confirmed.	DN