

Innovation Advisory Council for Wales

29th March 2018, Lifescience Hub, Cardiff

Minutes

Present: Kellie Beirne (KB) (chair)
Robin Williams (RW)
David Wilkes (DW)
Steve Smith (SS)
Rhys Thomas (RT)

Apologies: Jessica Jones (JJ)
Helen Swygart (HS)
David Notley (DN)
Sue Bale (SB)
Andy Middleton (AM)
Kirsten Bound (KBo)

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

Guest Speakers: Mike Bacigalupo (MB) (WG)
Jon Day (JD) (Cardiff Council)
Chris Meadows (CM) (IQE)

Agenda item		Action
1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>KB welcomed council members to the 14th IACW meeting.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were discussed. AD updated Council on the Reid Review which has been received by the Ministers. AD highlighted the 3 recommendations from the Review which include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) A high profile London office (a re-purposing of the current WG London office) with an emphasis on innovation and research;2) Maintaining and increasing QR funding to universities;3) Creation of 3 industry led innovation hubs; and the creation of a St Davids investment fund. <p>The Reid Review has not yet been published and is due to go to Cabinet for approval in May.</p> <p>AD to invite Peter Halligan, Wales' new Chief Scientific Adviser, to the next IACW meeting in June.</p> <p>AD to invite David Rosser to a future meeting to gain a better understanding of his new role as Chief Regional Officer for South East Wales.</p> <p>The minutes were agreed and approved.</p>	<p>AD</p> <p>AD</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>	
<p>2</p>	<p>European Capital of Innovation</p> <p>Council were joined by Mike Bacigalupo, Innovation Development Senior Manager from the WG and Jonathan Day, Business Development Manager from Cardiff Council, to discuss the possibility of submitting a proposal to enter Cardiff in the next European Capital of Innovation competition.</p> <p>The award, a H2020 competition, is an annual cash prize of €1m awarded to the European city that is best able to demonstrate its ability to harness innovation to improve the lives of its citizens. The closing date for applications is 21st June 2018.</p> <p>Discussions centred on identifying Cardiff's USPs, who would be the lead participant, and what resources are needed to submit a potential application. It was agreed Cardiff and the Cardiff Capital region have many attributes that could be included in the proposal, for example, the transformation of the city over the last 4-5 years; Cardiff is the youngest European city; Alacrity; Software Academy; Be the Spark; Compound Semiconductors; the Metro; and the Wellbeing of Future Generations.</p> <p>It was agreed that a subgroup consisting of KB, JD, RT, SS, MB, KBo, and Jon Wood from IUK will meet to discuss the proposal and take it forward. The meeting has been scheduled for 4pm on Friday 6th April.</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>IACW Update</p> <p>AD updated Council on the WG Economic Action Plan, Prosperity for All. The Calls to Action are aimed at businesses that are seeking financial support from WG and are designed to support them overcome challenges of the future. Businesses will be expected to contribute to at least 1 of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decarbonisation; • Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Headquarters; • Exports and Trade; • High Quality Employment, Skills Development and Fair Work; and • R&D, Automation and Digitisation. <p>AD spoke about the new Economic Contract which will require businesses seeking investment from WG to demonstrate all of the following as a minimum requirement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth potential; • Fair work; • Promotion of health, skills and learning in the workplace; and • Progress in reducing carbon footprint. 	

	<p>AD also highlighted the Economic Futures Fund which will be a common fund where all economic development schemes and funds will be.</p> <p>A lot of the detail for the above is still being worked out within WG.</p> <p>AD informed Council the External Advisory Body review is still ongoing, however the 9 sector panels have now been disbanded.</p> <p>KB queried a possible review of IACW to re-examine its purpose and fit.</p> <p>It was agreed to arrange a meeting between IACW and Mick McGuire, Marcella Maxwell and Emma Watkins. PC to arrange.</p>	PC
4	<p>City Deal Innovation Prospectus Update</p> <p>KB updated IACW on the innovation prospectus. All 10 local authorities have now signed the joint working agreement business plan for the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal.</p> <p>One project has been approved to date and is now live – CSC Foundry. A second project which will soon be underway is the Cardiff Metro Central project which the Metro will feed in to.</p> <p>There have been 2 approved frameworks under the City Deal, 1) Housing Investment Fund – focusing on bringing better housing into the region to support the jobs that will be created; 2) Skills sets which will focus on how to grow certain skills sets.</p> <p>Three forums have been set up to advise the City Deal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) An Economic Growth Partnership - to provide scrutiny of the City Deal; 2) Regional Business Organisation – a representative body of businesses across the region to ensure the voice of business is heard; and 3) Regional Transport Authority – this is working on the Metro. <p>Within the innovation prospectus, 3 frameworks have been approved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Technology Venture Capital Funds – a £50m fund which will be matched with investment from the EIB or the British Investment Bank; 2) Public Service Testbed – an approach to solve big societal problems; 3) Cyber academy – leveraging some of the potential that exists within the region and growing the skills base that industry needs to enable it to grow. <p>Looking at different range of fiscal rewards and incentives eg R&D tax credits and how to enhance them.</p>	
5	<p>Compound Semiconductor Connected Update</p>	

	<p>Chris Meadows from IQE updated Council on CS Connected which is the brand identity for the first Compound Semiconductor cluster. It is also the collective brand for the growing number of compound semiconductor related activities within the technology cluster. It represents academic and business partners engaged in the research, development, innovation and manufacture of compound semiconductor related and enabled products.</p> <p>CM spoke about a possible CS Academy which will provide administrative, advisory and training functions to define, coordinate and help deliver learning and skills activities across the regions from key skills and NVQ levels 1 to 9. Work is under way to develop relationships within schools, FE and HE bodies across South East Wales.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>DW highlighted a new UKRI programme which is due to be announced on 3rd April – Future Leaders Fellowship Scheme for business and academia. Details of the scheme can be found at:</p> <p>https://www.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/future-leaders-fellowships/</p> <p>DW also highlighted there is now a main UKRI funding opportunities page https://www.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/ which is a collation of all the UKRI calls.</p> <p>The next IACW meeting is scheduled for 8th June 2018, venue to be confirmed.</p>	