

Innovation Advisory Council for Wales

8th June 2018, Cardiff University,
Minutes

Present: Kellie Beirne (KB) (chair)
Robin Williams (RW)
David Wilkes (DW)
Rhys Thomas (RT)
David Notley (DN)
Andy Middleton (AM)
Kirsten Bound (KBo)
Helen Swygart (HS)

Apologies: Sue Bale (SB)
Steve Smith (SS)

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

Guest Speakers: Phil Allen (PA) (WG)
Sophie Howe (SH) (Wellbeing of Future Generations Commissioner)
Peter Halligan (PH) (WG)
Greg Green (GG) (WG)
Gavin George (GGe) (WG)

Agenda item		Action
1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>KB welcomed council members to the 15th IACW meeting.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were discussed. KB indicated an expression of interest for the European Capital of Innovation will be submitted by Cardiff Council. However, it had been difficult to pinpoint projects to include due to the eligibility criteria of the project.</p> <p>KB updated Council on the recent meeting held with Mick McGuire, Director of Business and Regions within WG. There is an opportunity for IACW to contribute to discussions on how to deliver the innovation elements of the WG's Economic Action Plan.</p> <p>KB confirmed the Reid Review has now been published.</p> <p>The minutes were agreed and approved.</p> <p>KB announced a resignation letter from Jessica Jones had been received and accepted.</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>A SMART approach to the Wellbeing of Future Generations</p> <p>PA highlighted how the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and the 5 ways of working are being used and interpreted within the SMART suite of programmes. He described how it is used as a reference document to base sustainability activities within the SMART operations. The WFG has now been integrated into all SMART documentation.</p> <p>An online innovation wellbeing toolkit is currently being developed and is due to be launched in September. It is designed to help businesses better understand and embed sustainability and wellbeing into their operations. It will be a prerequisite for businesses applying for funding from the SMART programmes.</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>Wellbeing of Future Generations Commissioner</p> <p>SH updated Council on the work of the WFG Office. She explained that both the Wales Audit Office and the WFG Office have recently published reports reflecting how the WFG Act has been adopted over the last year in Wales, and highlights the journey so far.</p> <p>She explained the role of the Commissioner does not have a duty to advise the individual public bodies on the objectives they have set but does have a duty to advise the public service boards on their collective objectives. However when it comes to monitoring and assessing, she has no powers to monitor and assess the public service boards but can monitor and assess public bodies.</p> <p>Examples of themes of the objectives that have been set include health and wellbeing, skills, housing, transport and energy.</p> <p>The Commissioner talked about the “Art of the Possible”, which is a partnership programme formed of 15 different organisations working with the WFG Office and aims to explain to the public bodies what each of the goals means in practise.</p> <p>She also highlighted the Live Labs and Cloud of Innovators programmes. Live Labs involve working with public bodies on issues they are facing. This is being piloted with Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board. The Cloud of Innovators programme will involve looking for organisations that have achieved innovative things across all goals. The WFG office would look to match these innovative companies with the Live Labs programme.</p> <p>IACW to recommend organisations/people that could be considered to join the Cloud of Innovators.</p> <p>SH to suggest a representative from the WFG office to join the Council.</p>	<p>IACW</p> <p>SH</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Innovate UK and the Devolved Administrations</p> <p>DW updated Council on the involvement of IUK with the regions and Devolved Administrations. IUK introduced regional managers</p>	

	<p>for NI, Scotland and Wales initially for a 6 month period, but following their success, these posts are now permanent full time positions. It has been a priority for IUK to have posts in the regions who understand the local ecosystem.</p> <p>IUK hold a quarterly Devolved Administrations meeting which have been invaluable and are held to gain knowledge of what is happening within each region.</p> <p>UKRI is now investing in Strengths in Places, which focuses on identifying local strengths and can demonstrate economic impact in the locality.</p>	
5	<p>Chief Scientific Adviser</p> <p>PH was welcomed to the meeting who joined the WG in March. The remit of the new CSA is to provide scientific advice to the Welsh Government. The CSA reports directly to the First Minister but also to Julie James, Ken Skates and Kirsty Williams.</p> <p>PH explained that he meets with 23 other UK departmental CSA's in London on a weekly basis.</p> <p>He mentioned he will be revising and re-purposing SACW and wishes to widen it to include technology and innovation.</p> <p>PH provided an update on the Reid Review and highlighted the 3 recommendations. The Reid Review was launched in London on 7th June.</p> <p>PC to send link and details of Arloesiadur to PH.</p>	PC
6	<p>Manumix</p> <p>GG updated Council on the Manumix project, a 4 year Interreg project looking at the evaluation of innovation policy instruments. The third learning journey had recently been held in Lithuania which was attended by DN, GGe and Nesta who presented on Arloesiadur. The Dashboard has been noted as good practice.</p> <p>The 4th Learning Journey is being held in Cardiff from 10-11 July. Site visits to the Medicentre and the Compound Semiconductor Cluster have been arranged on the 1st day. Wales will be peer reviewed by Lithuania on day 2 which will focus on the evaluation of Wales' innovation policy.</p>	
7	<p>IACW Update</p> <p>AD to invite Andrew Slade, Director General of ESNR, WG to a future meeting to hear his thoughts and vision for the future; and to discuss how IACW can support him.</p> <p>Invite the 3 new Chief Regional Officers from WG to attend the next meeting.</p>	<p>AD</p> <p>PC</p>

	<p>Discussions were held on inviting potential new members to join the Council. Several names were put forward for consideration. It was also agreed a co-chair was needed to work alongside Kellie. PC to email Council asking for volunteers.</p> <p>It was agreed the Terms of Reference and purpose of the Council needed updating and amending. PC to circulate the ToR for amendments to be made.</p> <p>The provocation/thought pieces were discussed. HS mentioned the CityVerve smart advertising testbed project in Manchester, see https://cityverve.org.uk for more information. This example could be used as a provocation piece. PC to email Council asking for further suggestions of topics.</p>	<p>PC</p> <p>PC</p> <p>PC</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>The next IACW meeting is scheduled for 21st September 2018, venue to be confirmed.</p>	