

New Anglia Innovation Board

NEWANGLIA

Local Enterprise Partnership
for Norfolk and Suffolk

Wednesday 22 May, 10:30-12:30

Keplar Room, Adastral Park, Martlesham Heath

Minutes

Attended:

David Carlin	Science Director	CEFAS
Madeleine Coupe	Innovation and Sector Manager	New Anglia LEP
Prof. Mohammed Dastbaz	Deputy Vice-Chancellor	University of Suffolk
Julian Munson	Head of Enterprise Zones and Innovation	New Anglia LEP
Howard Partridge	Regional Manager	Innovate UK
Lisa Perkins	Managing Director, Research and Innovation, BT	BT
Johnathan Reynolds	Board Member	New Anglia LEP
Prof. David Richardson (Chair)	Vice-Chancellor	UEA
Bradley Rowley	Innovation and Sector Development Coordinator	New Anglia LEP
Sarah Steed	Director of Innovation and Engagement	Norwich University of the Arts

Guests:

Vimmi Hayes	Economic Development Manager	Rep. Orbis Energy
Saffron Myhill-Hunt	Innovation Funding Manager	Invest East

Apologies:

Fiona Lettice	Pro-Vice Chancellor	UEA
Helen Lewis	Director of Research and Enterprise Division	UEA
David Parfrey	Executive Chair of Anglia Innovation Partnership	NRP LLP
David Taitt	Chairman, Hethel Innovation	Rep. Hethel Innovation

1. **Welcome from the Chair:** Introductions, apologies and minutes

- David Richardson (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked BT for their hospitality.
- Apologies were noted. The background of the Innovation Board was provided for the benefit of the newest members Norwich University of the Arts, University of Suffolk and CEFAS.
- Sarah Steed and Mohammed Dastbaz took a few moments to provide backgrounds on their respective organisations. Each were invited to provide a more detailed outline during forthcoming Innovation Board meetings;

Sarah Steed, Norwich University of the Arts (NUA);

NUA are renowned for their collaborations with businesses. They have recently developed a pilot that facilitates a team of students and staff to assist business who have a specific issue that could benefit from a new way of thinking.

The team at NUA also recently won the Employability and Entrepreneurship category at the prestigious Guardian University Awards for their card and board game, called Profile. The game challenges students to match real-world workplace issues to the skills and character attributes they need to resolve them.

On a personal note, Sarah also has other innovation experience gained from previous roles in the private sector.

Mohammed Dastbaz, University of Suffolk;

University of Suffolk will be three years old in August. Over the three years, the university has seen rapid growth; with an estimated 7000 students studying there by the end of 2019.

The university has introduced 20 new courses; mainly in STEM subjects. They work with a network of colleges including East Coast College. They will shortly have a presence at Adastral Park through a collaboration with BT (supported by New Anglia LEP)

Personally, Mohammed has an interest in sustainable development. He was previously a Professor of Computer Science and conducted his PHD on the design of multimedia systems (before these were developed and commonly used).



1a. CEFAS (New Anglia LEP Innovatic

- David Carlin gave the attached presentation as a formal introduction to CEFAS.
- After three years as Chair of the Innovation Board, David Richardson took this opportunity to inform board members of his intention to step down from the role. The current meeting would be his last. The Chair of the Innovation Board will need to be an existing New Anglia LEP Board member and will be announced following a decision at the New Anglia LEP Board meeting in June.
- The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and accepted.

2. **Invest East**

- Saffron Myhill-Hunt provided an outline of Invest East for those unfamiliar with the initiative;

Invest East is a free "investor led" programme to support Norfolk and Suffolk businesses to understand and prepare to raise equity and other forms of finance.

They aim to provide a wide range of potentially high growth businesses with knowledge and the benefit of others' experience to enable them to access the most appropriate type of funding for their needs. By identifying strengths and weaknesses and optimising the investment proposal, they help those businesses to put forward a compelling proposition to potential funders. Further information can be found at; <https://investeast.co.uk/>

The first cohort of businesses have already been through a series of Investment Readiness workshops that will culminate with a final event on 12 June when companies will have the opportunity to conduct their pitches to the investment community.

The next cohort will commence in August, and the Invest East team will be looking to recruit companies throughout June and July. There will be a greater emphasis to recruit companies from Ipswich and more widely Suffolk as these were underrepresented in the previous cohort.

Action:

1.	Contact Saffron-Myhill-Hunt (S.Myhill-Hunt@uea.ac.uk) if they are aware of any companies who could benefit from the next Invest East cohort.	All
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3. **Innovation Board workplan:**

a) Innovation Board: Terms of reference



3a 2019-22-05 DRAFT Innovation B Reference (Slides).p



3a. Terms of

An overview of the attached paper and slide deck was provided.

During the previous Innovation Board meeting, it was outlined that the Terms of Reference would be revisited to ensure these are robust enough to deliver the ongoing aims and future needs of the Innovation Board.

There was a wide-ranging discussion surrounding the Terms of Reference and supporting slide deck. Discussions points included;

- In relation to Skills for Innovation; there was a consensus that delivery around this activity should not replicate or overshadow the work being undertaken by the various skills boards.

- The board should focus on innovation, and not science and innovation.
- There was a suggestion that Cluster Development and Community Building could have a collaboration focus and include reaching out to other LEP areas and could possibly include EU and international entities.
- A funding stream for innovation would be welcomed as high-risk activities often not supported elsewhere.
- A New Anglia LEP Innovation Strategy was recommended, where the LEP and Innovation Board was responsible for driving innovation, and not just supporting it.

b) Activity Plan: Board Champions



3b 2019-19-02-
Board Champions.p

An overview of the attached paper was provided.

Innovation board members were asked to volunteer to champion one of the Activity Plan workstreams. As there are more board members than workstreams, it was agreed that two board members could collaborate. Champions would assist to drive the delivery of these activity streams within the Innovation Board and help the LEP innovation team to shape future planning around these activities.

During the discussion, it was agreed that Cluster Development would be the next workstream to be investigated at the next Innovation Board meeting in September. The following were agreed as champions;

Skills for Innovation - Mohammed Dastbaz and David Carlin

c) Investment in innovation



3c 2019-19-02-
Investment in Innov



3c. Investment in
Innovation (slides).p

An overview of the attached paper and slide deck was provided.

Following on from the conversation at the Innovation Board meeting in February, it was agreed that Investment in Innovation would be the first workplan activity to be investigated.

As outlined during this session, actual innovation spend in Norfolk and Suffolk is difficult to evidence. This stimulated further discussion around the table. The paper outlines some initiatives that could be progressed to improve investment in innovation and facilitate collaborations. Both have been commonly identified as required to stimulate additional innovation.

d) Innovation Forum & Ideas Foundation (LIS)



3d 2019-19-02-
Innovation Forum a

An overview of the attached paper was provided.

At the previous meeting, the Innovation Board endorsed the formation of the Innovation Forum. The inaugural workshop is planned for Monday 17 June at John Innes Conference Centre and will be hosted by Johnathan Reynolds. The theme of the first session will be Opportunities in Innovation, and links to the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) engagement activities. Invitations to around 120 individuals have been sent out, with the expectation of around 40 individuals from various sectors, academia, and innovation focussed organisations in attendance.

The workshop themes will provide feedback to shape the Ideas pillar of the LIS that directly relates to innovation.

Action:

1.	Endorse revised Innovation Board Terms of Reference or recommend amendments.	Innovation Board members
2.	Provide additional feedback of the workstream activity individuals wish to volunteer to champion for future Innovation Board activity.	Innovation Board members
3.	Feedback additional comments and endorsement of investment propositions outlined in the Investment in Innovation paper for LEP Executive to progress.	Innovation Board members
4.	Provide Innovation Board organisational representation at the Innovation Forum (board member or additional representative)	Innovation Board members
5.	Provide feedback on Innovation Forum; Opportunities in Innovation workshop.	Bradley Rowley & Madeleine Coupe
6.	Feedback future Innovation Forum workshop themes to be considered.	Innovation Board members

4. **New place branding: Update**

- An update was provided on the new place branding for Norfolk and Suffolk. This remains confidential until it launches on Friday 26 July, Adastral Park. The branding introductory video was played for those unfamiliar with it. The branding has been designed in conjunction with Jacob Bailey.

A recent tender has been awarded to Quickfire Digital (Norfolk) and Land Communication (Suffolk) to produce a new website and marketing collateral to promote Norfolk and Suffolk and facilitate investment into the area. Land Communication have previous experience working with economic development agencies.

A brochure style website will be launched at the same time as the place branding, with additional website functionality and campaigns implemented over the forthcoming months.

5. **Sector Industry Councils: New structures being implemented**



Item 5. Industry Council Structure.ppt

An overview of the attached paper was provided.

Over the forthcoming months, New Anglia LEP will be implementing new industry councils for key sectors in Norfolk and Suffolk; Agri-food, Digital/ ICT, and Energy. Each industry council will have a uniform structure. This includes an innovation thematic/ task and finish group. Membership of these groups can come from the main council, or external representatives (including companies). This would depend on the activity being delivered. The innovation groups could lead to cross sector activity. They could also be utilised as an additional link to the Innovation Board in the same way as the Innovation Forum.

All three industry councils should be implemented by the Autumn, with the Agri-food Industry Council being the last to convene on Wednesday 17 September.

6. **Innovative Projects Fund & Growth Fund: Updates**



6 2019-19-02 Innovative Projects.ppt

An overview of the attached paper was provided.

There has been a significant focus on funding projects relating to digital innovation and skills.

In addition to the projects outlined, others have received conditional offers but have not been confirmed to progress further at this stage.

A second wave of the Innovative Projects Fund is expected to be advertised in the next couple of months. This initiative is funded through pooled business rates from Enterprise Zones. There are plans to include two additional funding partners, and this is the reason for the delay in advertising the next wave. Should this come to fruition, the funding available to projects would increase from £500,000 to £1.5 Million.

Action:		
1.	Consideration to be given of potential projects that could apply for the Innovative Project Fund. Madeleine Coupe and Bradley Rowley are available to assist with the scoping of any project.	Innovation Board members
7.	<p>Innovation Board: Member update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Hethel Innovation & Orbis Energy vacancies & Innovation Board representation;</p> <p>Innovation Board members were informed that Simon Coward had stepped down from his role at Hethel Innovation and will no longer attend board meetings. Norfolk County Council will recruit against the vacancy in due course. In the interim, David Taitt will attend Innovation Board meetings.</p> <p>Innovate UK</p> <p>Howard Partridge confirmed that the next Innovate UK in the East of England event will take place on Wednesday 4 March, Norwich Research Park</p> <p>There are 15 competitions currently open, this includes the Innovate UK Smart Grant programme for April (closes Wednesday 24 July).</p> <p>Applications for the next round of Strength in Places funding will open on Monday 3 June, and close on Wednesday 9 October. There will be £26 million allocated to deliver both round 1 and 2 projects. A series of Strength in Places workshops are currently taking place, with a session confirmed for Peterborough on 23 May. Bradley Rowley confirmed that he will be attending this workshop.</p> <p>New Anglia LEP have been invited to contribute to a round 1 Strength in Places Agri-tech project being developed by Essex University. This is one of 23 projects that have received seed funding to develop their project ahead of a final assessment. Bradley Rowley will attend a two-day workshop in Colchester on 30-31 May to assist with shaping the project further. In addition to New Anglia LEP, representation is expected from business, sector organisations and academia from Essex, Cambridge, Hertfordshire, and Lincolnshire.</p> <p>Personal statement from the Chair</p> <p>Earlier in the meeting, David Richardson announced his intention to step down from chairing the Innovation Board. The UEA will continue to be represented by Fiona Lettuce and Helen Lewis. David Richardson will progress the UEA Office for Students; promoting internships and employability in the region, and the Institute of Productivity.</p> <p>AOB</p> <p>There was no additional business raised by Innovation Board Members.</p> 	

Next Meeting: Tuesday 24 September, 14:00-16:00, The Ideas Factory, Norwich University of the Arts, Cavendish House, 28-32 St Andrews Street, Norwich, NR2 4AE