

Tuesday 24 September, 14:00-16:00

Board Room, Norwich University of the Arts

Minutes

Attended

David Carlin	Science Director	CEFAS
Maddie Coupe	Innovation & Sector Manager	New Anglia LEP
Prof. Mohammed Dastbaz	Dep. Vice Chancellor	University of Suffolk
Prof. Fiona Lettice	Pro-Vice Chancellor	University of East Anglia
Helen Lewis	Director of Research & Innovation Division	University of East Anglia
Julian Munson	Head Enterprise Zones & Innovation	New Anglia LEP
Vince Muspratt	Assistant Director, Growth & Development	Rep. Local Authorities
David Parfrey	Executive Chair	AIP LLP
Howard Partridge	Regional Manager	Innovate UK
Lisa Perkins	Adastral Park & Research Realisation Director	BT
Johnathan Reynolds (Chair)	Board Member	New Anglia LEP
Sarah Steed	Director of Innovation & Engagement	Norwich University of the Arts
David Tait	Chairman	Hethel Innovation
Jack Weaver	Enterprise Zone Coordinator	New Anglia LEP

Guests

Vimmi Hayes	Economic Development Manager	Rep. Orbis Energy
Prof. Andrew Lovett	Professor of Geography	University of East Anglia

Apologies

Lisa Robert	Head of Strategy	New Anglia LEP
-------------	------------------	----------------

1 Welcome from the Chair – Introductions, apologies & minutes

- Johnathan Reynolds (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked NUA for hosting. The meeting noted thanks to David Richardson for his contribution as the previous Chair of the group.
- Minutes from the last meeting were confirmed as an accurate record– all actions picked up. Some amendments to job titles and organisation names were requested.
- Apologies were noted as above.
- Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the group agreed to bring forward agenda item 4 to follow on from item 2 as the two topics naturally interact. Hence accompanying papers numbered '3a, 3b' etc became '4a, 4b' etc.

a) Introducing Norwich University of the Arts – Sarah Steed

Sarah welcome the board to NUA and gave a presentation on the universities work:

NUA work to combine innovation with the creative industries and make a significant contribution to creative development in the area which in turn has a major impact on the economy of the region.

Sarah described how the university is different to 'conventional' universities in that they are a community of creatives. Courses are about learning through real-life briefs. There are very few exams *per se*, and research at NUA doesn't look like traditional research at other universities. NUA are widely seen as being very innovative in their approach to higher education. In one example of this they are pioneering the use of extended reality (XR)

in course delivery and are even partnered with not-for-profit AIXR, the government-backed body for immersive industries.

In an exciting development, NUA have been nominated for the prestigious Guardian University Award in the “Buildings that Inspire” category for their campus. In addition, a new teaching facility on Duke St, Norwich is soon to begin construction. This is an exciting £10.5m development focusing on performing arts and digital games industry. This is particularly interesting for this board as it connects well with the tech corridor.

2 Discussion Item: Climate Change

Professor Andrew Lovett from UEA gave a presentation on current and expected trends in climate change in the East of England, and possible mitigation actions the board could explore. His presentation is complementary to a broader climate change report published for New Anglia LEP in July 2019.

The full report can be viewed [here](#).



Slide deck - Climate change presentation -

Observed changes in climate from UKCP18 report coupled with new methodology allow us to look at climate change in 30-year time periods, both in the past and currently, to examine climate variations down to 1km spaces. It also enables new projections on the future.

In summary the most likely scenario is a 2.4 degree increase up to year 2100. Meanwhile greenhouse gas emissions in Norfolk and Suffolk (as a contributor to national average) have actually gone up. In Norfolk this equates to 5.4 tonnes per person and 5.6tonnes in Suffolk. To put this into context, the agreement reached at the Paris Climate Change Conference and subsequent agreement is for no more than 1.7 tonnes per person.

In addition, 23% of greenhouse emissions in the region come from just 37 point-sources. These include expected sources such as power generation, shipping, waste management etc. This shows the need for a truly collaborative effort to reduce emissions.

A number of priority changes are recommended:

- **Adapting building stock** – i.e. how we build new houses and how we make existing houses energy efficient.

A Large percentage of homes in the region are not on the gas network, so alternative heating options that utilise this existing network will need some serious thought. For example, hydrogen fuel delivered in high-pressure gas mains won't (with current infrastructure) be an option for home needed that use oil heating.

- **Transport** – There is need to think seriously about the use of electric vehicles in public transport

Whilst the push for electrification of transport is positive, there is still an unaddressed problem with charging infrastructure. This is particularly acute in this region and links to another change (below) around high voltage capacity on the energy network.

- **Energy sector** – The region has a very diverse offer in terms of energy resources and production

Despite a varied energy sector from wind, solar, nuclear etc, distribution of the energy produced is a problem. In Norfolk for instance; outside areas in the very south of the county and those bordering Cambridgeshire, the electricity network does not have a single high voltage connection.

- **Agricultural sector**

Here we need to see better water management and enhanced carbon sequestration from existing practices. In addition there is still huge scope for anaerobic digestion and bio-fuels.

- **Food processing**

Despite improvements, fundamentally food production is still not very energy efficient.

In summary; all these priority changes interact with each other so any solutions need to address them in a coordinated and collaborative way.

Discussion then followed on how the board could use this work:

On anaerobic digestion it was discussed that more progress could be made on a small farm scale although it was noted that some large estates have made significant investments in this technology. Wider adoption depends on incentivisation and support for farmers to invest, plus enabling a market. It was noted that both the affordability of the capital outlay for the technology is important as well as the affordability for the consumer.

It was also noted that two of the big growth sectors in the LIS are the biggest emitters of greenhouse gases. Therefore, there is a question for the group about how we match the desired growth and climate change issues into a cohesive plan.

Action

Send link to report and slides out with minutes - JW

Action:

1	Embed link to climate change report in the minutes and include presentation slides when distributing minutes.	Jack Weaver/Madeleine Coupe
---	---	-----------------------------

3 LIS – Update

Madeleine Coupe gave an overview of the LIS with all partners aware of the document in its draft form.

The LIS delivers on the place element of the national strategy. The latest draft has been circulated to partners and it is now for government to review it. Publication of the New Anglia LIS is due end of October 2019.

Discussion:

The Board discussed future funding with a question on how the LEP will prioritise investment to deliver the LIS.

The LEP clarified that there is uncertainty around future capital funding for LEPs. New Anglia LEP has generated revenue funding from its Enterprise Zones which it uses for programmes such as the Innovative Projects Fund. As this is locally generated it doesn't rely on Government.

Whatever the future landscape, it is a positive step to develop and agree an ambitious strategy which is underpinned by set of investable projects. Once funding becomes available the region will have a ready set of projects to bid for investment.

Conversation then moved to the issue of climate change specifically in the context of the LIS.

Whilst the LIS starts to identify options for new power generation in the region, we need to recognise where we have less sway and need to mobilise others in other sector groups (building growth for instance) to look at different models for development for example – energy efficient construction etc.

An example of the need for this mobilisation can be found in a current energy saving project. This multi-year project saved 35,000tonnes of CO2. Whilst this is commendable and hugely important, the 37 point-sources in the presentation account for 2,000,000 tonnes. There is a clear need for change *en masse*.

The group agreed that:

- There is a need for the innovation board to not focus just on what is new, flashy and viewed as innovative. Fixing existing problems to make a dent in the big numbers is more effective.
- The other side of the energy challenge is the growing *need* for energy. Electric vehicles feature in the LIS but infrastructure is lacking. Questions remain about how we reduce the demand from food, clothing, vehicles, construction etc in a 24-hour consumerist society.
- Cross-sector collaboration is crucial and the Innovation Board needs to be used effectively to bridge sector gaps.

Actions

Madeleine to share UEA sustainability event details

Action:

2 | Share details of UEA sustainability event with the group.

Madeleine Coupe

4 **Innovation Board Activity Plan:**

a) Governance Arrangements

No further comments/questions received from the group

b) Strategic Projects – Strength in Places Fund (Confidential)

The fund is a large UKRI opportunity on the translation of research into commercial opportunities. Wave 2 is ongoing and UEA is leading a regional bid focused on regional energy coast. This is a circa £31m project with an ask from UKRI of circa £20m.

No further comments/questions received from the group

c) Investment Paper: update paper

Paper is an update on activities since the last board meeting with some progress made on proposed projects. LIS has also been drafted since last meeting which picks up on some of the initiatives.

Lots of work has been done to identify companies who have accessed Innovate UK funding since 2004 This has provided lots of intelligence on innovation-active companies are doing in the region. The future plan will be to engage more with these companies so they can be advocates for the LEP.

- R&D Task and Finish Group

The LEP put forward a proposal to develop at an innovation research and development task and finish group which links to the Business Growth Programme Partnership Board.

Broad agreement in the proposal to form the group.

- New Grant Scheme

This new scheme is designed to fill a gap in Innovate UK grants which start at £25k. Typically a space where SMEs may otherwise struggle to find funding. The decision-making process will be within the remit of a grants panel. Discussion followed around any work to map all the grant scheme awards. Businesses may not know where to look for all the various funding available.

David Parfrey offered to sit on the grants panel. It was also suggested that the UEA funding team could be involved.

- Innovation mentoring programme

A proposal to develop a mentoring support programme through which businesses can access support in writing innovation funding bids. Innovation Board agreed in principle for a bid to the innovative projects fund. The group agreed that each would nominate a point of contact in their respective organisations to support and advertise the programme,

Broad support for this programme from the group

- Small business research initiative event

SBRI is about leveraging public sector resources to spend on research services from business to identify problems and take solutions through to being viable.

Recently Innovate UK went to Norfolk County Council to a meeting with people with procurement budget responsibility. The idea was to raise awareness of the initiative and it was generally positive. SBRI works very well regionally so there is potential to look at how this can complement other funding/support schemes from the LEP.

d) Innovation Forum – feedback and update paper

First innovation forum was held in June 2019. Feedback from this event has been distributed.

Future forums upcoming will be announced once the new Innovation & Sectors Coordinator is in place. In addition to this there is potential for an event at the Innovate UK conference in March.

e) Innovation prospectus

The Innovation prospectus was an output of a previous innovation board meeting. This has been paused until such time as the LIS and place brand are completed. Hence, the process of producing this can now be progressed.

LEP are looking to engage with all partners to develop this prospectus with a launch in March 2020. It was confirmed that the Innovation Board will be developing this prospectus and have sign off

All agreed to endorse

Actions:

3	Send LEP declaration of interest forms out to innovation board members	Madeleine Coupe
4	Raise new grants scheme with business contact	Innovation Board members
5	Send details of any organisations keen to be involved with the new task & finish group to Madeleine Coupe	Innovation Board members
6	Distribute draft TORs of the new task & finish group to assist organisation identification for action no.5	Madeleine Coupe
7	Circulate work done so far to map grant scheme awards	Madeleine Coupe
8	Nominate a contact within each organisation to support new mentorship programme	Innovation Board members
9	Nominate a contact within each organisation to support innovation prospectus work	Innovation Board members

5 Innovation Board: Member update

Updates were provided as follows:

UOS

BT project to develop Adastral park campus has begun with an event planned for January time. Meanwhile the first international conference on sustainability has been held in Ipswich. Interesting case studies came out of this with a publication due in January.

UEA

Keen to speak to partners about the development of the Institute of Productivity. Planning to open in late 2020.

AIP

New strategy and vision for NRP has been launched and now into delivery.

CEFAS

Construction on new building is ongoing and on track. Hopefully moving in will begin in 6-weeks with a proper opening ceremony in September 2020.

CEFAS is administering a Seafood Innovation Fund, a 3-year programme to support innovation in the seafood sector.

Since the board meeting, CEFAS have provided the following update:

The current web link is <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-seafood-innovation-fund>, but we are currently building a new site dedicated to the fund that will be a great platform for interested parties to access all the fund info in one place. The new site is expected in November in advance of second call for the fund at the end of Jan 2020.

Innovate UK

Greenhouse gas removal demonstrator competition is opening on 30th September, details of which can be found online.

AOB

None

Actions

CEFAS to distribute info of seafood innovation fund

Actions:

10	Distribute further information on the UK Seafood innovation Fund	David Carlin
-----------	--	--------------