

Minutes

Attended

David Carlin	Science Director	Cefas
James Allen	Innovation & Sector Manager	New Anglia LEP
Julian Munson (Chair)	Head Enterprise Zones & Innovation	New Anglia LEP
David Parfrey	Executive Chair	AIP LLP / NRP
Howard Partridge	Regional Manager	Innovate UK
Lisa Perkins	Adastral Park & Research Realisation Director	BT
Jai Raithatha	Head of Economic Development	Suffolk County Council
David Taitt	Chairman	Hethel Innovation
Ian Pease	Business Development Manager	OrbisEnergy
Jo Middleton	Economic Policy and Strategy Manager	Norfolk County Council
Andy Holyland	Regional Manager	ORE Catapult
Julie Schofield	Head of Business Partnerships	UEA

Apologies

Johnathan Reynolds (Chair)	Board Member	New Anglia LEP
Katie Snell	Innovation and Sector Coordinator	New Anglia LEP
Scott Cogman	Innovation Hubs Coordinator	New Anglia LEP
Mark Ash	Executive Director of Growth, Highways & Infrastructure	Suffolk County Council
Sarah Steed	Director of Innovation and Engagement	Norwich University of the Arts
Vince Muspratt	Assistant Director, Growth & Development	Norfolk County Council
Prof. Mohammad Dastbaz	Deputy Vice-Chancellor	University of Suffolk
Prof. Fiona Lettice	Pro-Vice Chancellor	UEA
Helen Lewis	Director of Research and Innovation Division	UEA

1 Welcome from the Chair – Introductions, Apologies & Minutes

- Julian Munson (Chair) welcomed all to the meeting.
- Apologies were noted.
- Minutes agreed.
- Mentioned that the LEP would welcome any other nominations for the Clean Growth Taskforce.

2 Discussion Innovation Strategy

David Parfrey from NRP said that we must offer a vision of what we can be and dial up what we are good at. NRP's experience of the DIT high potential opportunity was a great exercise. We must not forget that we have the quickest route in to Europe and the rest of the world and should position ourselves in this manner.

Lisa Perkins from BT stated that we must be focused and should lean in to support each other's activities and assets across the region. Starting to host people at the DigiTech Centre on Adastral Park. It is important to leverage facilities like this at every opportunity.

Howard Partridge from Innovate UK recommended having the case ready – strengths and weaknesses – for why the region is deserving of levelling up and Government investment. Place will be extremely important moving forward.

Andy Holyland from ORE Catapult felt the region needs to shout out louder and more often with a clear focus and demonstration of the impact of projects, assets, and networks. The integration of supply chain and services across sectors would have massive benefits for the region.

Jai Raithatha from Suffolk County Council mentioned the need to identify what the region's difference or added value is compared to others. Need to bring the assets that add value to the table. Highlight the sectors and technologies emerging that will shape the UK's future.

Julian Munson from New Anglia LEP highlighted the importance of a stronger focus on technologies and their role across all sectors. The LEP will be developing an innovation framework over the next few weeks. Holding on for Government's Innovation Strategy to see how far this builds on the Build Back Better plan and can translate into action this end.

David Taitt from Hethel noted the importance of making our ambitions as objective and crunchy as possible. Need to be clear on what we are trying to achieve with a vision to articulate the end goal. Who are the exemplars in other regions and countries? Who is getting it right and wrong? Should do a gap analysis to see what is preventing the region from achieving our innovation goals. Hethel has learnt from innovation centres in places such as Silverstone, Hinkley and Cambridge. We must not miss out on inward investment.

Actions:

1. JM – the LEP will come back with the bones of an innovation framework at the next Innovation Board meeting

3 Innovation Board Member Updates

Cefas:

- Excited to be moving back in to their building, likely to do this soon and hope this will unlock further innovation at Cefas.
- Delighted with the G7 announcements around the blue planet agenda, which they helped shape.
- Hoped to be present at the COP26 in Glasgow around climate science.
- Seeing more from Government around regional impacts.
- Hosting their annual science conference tomorrow with over 300 external partners signed up.

Orbis Energy:

- Working with various partners to explore a hydrogen demonstrator at Power Park in Lowestoft. Project inception meeting in the next few weeks.

ORE Catapult:

- Catapult services providing industry support for growth and technology.
- Blyth facility is looking at expansion. Working with offshore facilities at Blyth to work with robotics and testing.
- Centres of Excellence:
 - Operations and Maintenance centre of excellence in Grimsby is looking at offshore wind, maritime and decarbonisation. Data and digital focus for the next type of control centres.
 - Floating offshore wind centre of excellence – lots of opportunity for our deep water ports to support this.
- Co-existence of aquaculture working with developers and opportunities around seaweed, etc.
- Working in a cross-catapult initiative to look at the hydrogen roadmap to support the soon to be developed Hydrogen Strategy. ORE Catapult will play a key role in its delivery.
- Mentioned the H100 project in Fife which is looking at hydrogen and powering residential homes; the CLUE project which involves community planning and engagement around smart systems; and the Milford Haven Project which works with the current gas infrastructure, onshore renewables and links with offshore renewables and hydrogen opportunities – would align with our existing infrastructure.
- The Fit4ORE programme is working well with all 15 companies across Norfolk and Suffolk doing really well. All feeding back new contract awards, staff increases, increased turnover and growth. Hopefully looking at next programme in not too distant future and coupled with technology adoption and innovation.

Hethel Innovation:

- Occupancy is hovering around 94% across the two sites at Hethel and Scottow.
- There is good demand for workshops and weaker demand for office space.
- New tenants coming on to site at both sites.

- Some very good growth stories at existing tenants, particularly at Hethel with expansion plans.
- Secured the purchase of 5.8 acres of land from Lotus which will provide ground space for a further 8,000m² of grow-on space.
- Acquiring a building at Scottow to turn into a heritage and visitor centre providing a friendlier front of house. Looking to turn the officers mess in to a conference and events centre.
- The progress at the food enterprise park is particularly exciting.
- Holding discussions with the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk and West Suffolk Council around potential sites close to King's Lynn and Bury St Edmunds.

NRP:

- Every bit of space is being used and has been used throughout the pandemic.
- The companies on site are growing at a fast pace, which is great news for the region.
- Downside of this growth is that every inch of the site is being used, so they are full to the brim. Modular extensions are on order and arriving in the summer providing immediate space. Additional controlled environment containers will increase plant growing space.
- Fast progressing through RIBA stages for 41-42,000m² building on site. Programme for 3-4 more buildings of that size on site, with one a dedicated accelerator space.
- Tropic Bioscience has protected the banana, coffee, and rice.
- Colorifix' dying process is being used in H&M's new sustainable clothing range and countries around the world are signing licences with them to see the sustainable process being used.
- Dr Peter (Pete) Jackson has been appointed as non-executive chair at Anglia Innovation Partnership LLP. He is a serial entrepreneur with a wealth of experience around commercialisation.

UEA:

- Work continues with Productivity East. Faced some delays with equipment, but now very confident for an official launch in September alongside the School for Engineering.
- New conversations are progressing nicely with the advanced manufacturing and engineering sector.
- Excited about their role in the development of the food innovation centre cluster and recruiting staff for their role in this.
- Occupancy has remained stable at the Enterprise Centre. Businesses are keen to be part of the ecosystem.
- Seeing a growth in graduates wanting to set up their own business.

BT:

- The Innovation Martlesham cluster at Adastral Park continues to grow. The benefit of that ecosystem is clear.
- BT has supported companies on the site throughout the pandemic.
- Some companies on site are seeing exciting deals coming through.
- Working with the Canadian Embassy around attracting start-ups through the DIT High Potential Opportunity at Adastral Park. DIT will produce HPO collateral for prospective businesses.
- Have a big eye on the local area development at Brightwell Lakes. They have held positive conversations with the developer Taylor Wimpey around the potential for smart homes and living labs.
- On skills and talent, the DigiTech Centre is nearly complete and going really well. The ambition is to home grow the talent they need to feed the ecosystem. BT normally runs lots of events with schools coming on site. This has not been easy, and they pivoted to the virtual world. During British Science Week, they had c.9,000 sign-ups in March and in many cases one sign-up was a classroom.
- The next Tommy Flowers virtual conference will be held on smart manufacturing and industry 4.0 capability – shared a link with attendees.

Norfolk County Council:

- The Innovation Grant Mentoring programme is helping businesses across Norfolk and Suffolk bid for Government funding. The programme has received 100 registrations.
- The operations and maintenance campus project in Great Yarmouth is due to deliver 650 jobs by 2027/8. Funding received from the LEP and County Council was for phase one. Ground breaking is planned for the end of June and delivery is on schedule.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will report back at the next Board meeting on the progress of Community Renewal Fund bids. <p>Suffolk County Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will report back at the next Board meeting on the progress of Community Renewal Fund bids. Well into the infrastructure planning process for Sizewell C. Ensuring we build innovation into development through conversations with the applicant EDF and the supply chain. Pulling together the outline business case for Government on the Freeport East bid.
	<p>Actions:</p> <p>2</p>
4	<p>Innovate UK Update</p> <p>Howard Partridge highlighted that Innovate UK's new Chief Executive Indro Mukerjee has experience in the East of England and a strong business background, as well as a strong interest in skills.</p> <p>Anticipating the new Innovation Strategy from Government by October with place as one of its key themes. The R&D Place Strategy will have levelling up at the heart of it.</p> <p>There are plenty of open competitions at Innovate UK right now and this is where businesses should be looking for funding opportunities.</p> <p>Ian Meikle, Director of Clean Growth and Infrastructure at Innovate UK will be a keynote speaker at the launch event of the LEP's Connected Innovation project on 13 July.</p>
	<p>Actions:</p> <p>3</p>
5	<p>Agenda Items</p> <p>Verbal update from Julian Munson: highlighted that the LEP is in the process of developing the Renewal Plan and the Innovation Board will have a strong role to play over the coming months during its development. This plan will consolidate previous LEP strategies.</p> <p>Verbal update from James Allen: provided an update on the Connected Innovation project with the Innovation Hubs Coordinator appointed, capability mapped across all innovation hubs and a virtual launch event planned for 13 July focusing on cross-sector innovation, clean growth and setting out a gallery of innovation support for businesses.</p> <p>Verbal update from Andy Holyland: The Marine Innovation project in the South West has been running since 2017. It runs on three year cycles, so it is currently Marine 1 2 bringing innovation to marine and maritime assets. Wondered whether we could build on the Connected Innovation project, Freeport East, and other work to look at this in region. In the South West, it involves local authorities and universities in the region. Can bring in the wider catapult network to further stimulate any future bid if partners were interested.</p>
	<p>Actions:</p> <p>4. AH to share details of the Marine Innovation project after the meeting.</p>
6	<p>Future Board Items – Priorities for 2021</p> <p>Julian Munson asked Board members to have a think of priorities for future meetings and to contact the LEP with any suggestions.</p>
7	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> James Allen mentioned the LEP's Innovation Blogs which have been produced based on the content received for the LEP's Innovation Prospectus. These have been extremely popular. The next blog will focus on the Innovation Board and the launch of the Innovation Prospectus. Board members were asked to suggest any further content for future blogs.