

## New Anglia Innovation Board

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022 14:00-16:00

MS Teams

# NEWANGLIA

Local Enterprise Partnership  
for Norfolk and Suffolk

## Minutes

### Attended

David Taitt	Chairman	Hethel Innovation
James Allen	Innovation & Sector Manager	New Anglia LEP
Julian Munson	Head Enterprise Zones & Innovation	New Anglia LEP
Howard Partridge	Regional Manager	Innovate UK
Jo Middleton	Economic Policy and Strategy Manager	Norfolk County Council
Scott Cogman	Project Coordinator	New Anglia LEP
Johnathan Reynolds (Chair)	LEP Board Member	New Anglia LEP
Katie Snell	Innovation and Sector Coordinator	New Anglia LEP
Prof. Gups Jagpal	Pro Vice - Chancellor Business and Entrepreneurship	University of Suffolk
Lisa Perkins	Director of Innovation and Engagement	BT
Ian Pease	Business Development Manager	OrbisEnergy
Sarah Steed	Director of Innovation and Engagement	Norwich University of the Arts
		Cefas
Tim Green	Deputy CEO and Finance Director	University of East Anglia
Prof. Fiona Lettice	Pro Vice Chancellor Research & Innovation	University of East Anglia
Colette Matthewman (Guest)	Relationship Manager	

### Apologies:

Vince Muspratt	Director of Growth & Development	Norfolk County Council
Prof. Mohammad Dastbaz	Deputy Vice Chancellor	University of Suffolk
Helen Lewis	Director of Innovation and Engagement	University of East Anglia
Jai Raithatha	Head of Economic Development	Suffolk County Council
Roz Bird	Chief Executive	Norwich Research Park

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Welcome from the Chair – Introductions, Apologies &amp; Minutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcomes and introductions made.</li> <li>- Minutes discussed, one typo noted for amendment, otherwise minutes signed off.</li> </ul> <p><b>Actions/Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pete Joyner, Johnathan Reynolds, and Lisa Perkins to meet looping BT into net zero.</li> <li>- Robotics Festival will be postponed (hopefully into November) due to train strikes.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Innovation Board Updates:</b></p> <p>Hethel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Phase 4 is the important thing on their agenda.</li> <li>- BFIC (Broadland Food Innovation Centre) is a big step forward and pleased to be involved in the FEP. Launching this Thursday.</li> </ul> <p>UEA:</p>

- UEA supporting the food and drink cluster in the region, working with the BFIC team at the FEP.
- Sync the City coming up again in November (17-19<sup>th</sup>). 54 hours of pitching support and creating start-up tech-based company.
- Civic University event with UEA & UoS on 21 October.
- Two grants on impact acceleration front – c£1m in total for three years to pump-prime research ideas to commercialise. Will see these ramp up across the autumn in the medical and cultural creative offering.

#### UoS:

- Just concluded innovation programme with royal academy of engineering.
- Innovation Labs partnership – up to about 38 tenants in their innovation space who are forming links with the university.
- Seeing more interest in 3D productivity suite. Innovation vouchers and grants available to subsidise access for businesses.
- Continuing with ICET project.
- LSIP conversations are progressing.

#### OrbisEnergy:

- Held offshore wind meets tech event in July. Need more buy in from developers and OEMs to address technology challenges.
- ORE Catapult's Regional Innovation Manager has now started and has desk space across the region incl. Orbis, UEA, etc.
- Working up plans with EEEGR and East Wind around Wind Week (24-28 October). Shaping up to be an interesting week. UEA & Productivity East event; East Coast College open day; offshore wind for kid's event; marine supply chain events with 4C offshore; offshore wind export event; and a big tour of energy infrastructure around ABP Port of Lowestoft and reciprocal tour of Peel Ports Great Yarmouth.

#### Jo Middleton:

- Innovation Grant Mentoring project – first successful grant of £50k and hopefully another large one in the pipeline. This will have paid for the whole project to date.
- Discussions continue around County Deals – will see what this looks like when and if this is announced.

#### Lisa Perkins:

- Launched DigiHealth innovation hub. Designed with ability to bring trusts and health experts together with research and innovation ecosystem at Adastral Park. Work lined up with Norwich and Norfolk Hospital thanks to NRP.
- Suffolk Sustainability Institute – smart house is complete and had to postpone launch of this project. This will represent more collaborative opportunities for the region.
- Digital Industries Innovation Hub due to launch in October. Brings together industry and thought leaders around digital industries.
- Leaning into the space sector opportunity for the region, which is being driven by the LEP.
- Innovate UK CEO Indro Mukherjee was due to visit Adastral Park recently. This has now been postponed. The visit will include a section on wider regional innovation opportunities.

#### Norwich University of the Arts:

- Tom Fleming Consultancy scoping out 2 projects/institutes – creative technology and arts, health, and social sustainability. Scoping out if these are useful to region and nation.
- Waiting on results for the levelling up fund bid for Norwich. Planned to have a creative technology suite open for businesses.
- Studio East project report back. Mostly engaged with external commissioners such as Amazon, Netflix, etc. Report is very encouraging and shows there is an opportunity for Norfolk – all about the innovation we can wrap around a film studio – in space of virtual production, LED screen technology and embracing technologies coming out of games world. Needs a city location.
- Working with a business looking to innovate in screen technology in Norfolk. US investor looking to support 360 and dome screen technologies. Teamed up with Tom Hanks' production company to build

	<p>something in Norfolk around GIs / tourism opportunity. Would be great to run alongside the Studio East project.</p> <p>Cefas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Finally completing the new building in Lowestoft which houses c.550 employees. Rescheduling official launch into the new year, with a wider opening of the facilities.</li> <li>- Reflecting on scale and volume of future-use of the building e.g., Gov't departments and opportunities for marine science and innovative businesses.</li> <li>- Supporting EDF around Sizewell C.</li> </ul>
3	<p><b>Connected Innovation 2.0</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Julian ran through the slides (will share after meeting) setting out the background behind the project, the growth of the network and delivery highlights to date.</li> <li>- We have funding to March. From April onwards, a proposal is with Gov't under the UKSPF which brings together business support activity from Growth Hub and the Connected Innovation project. Will look at wider cluster development activity.</li> <li>- Talking about 2-year funding – all round cross-sector innovation; application of technology to drive transition to net zero; greater engagement with finance and business support networks; leveraging research strengths in region; thematic discussions around grow on space, access to finance, and recruitment and skills; and exploring and highlighting emerging opportunities.</li> <li>- Promotion of development opportunities – EZ sites, FEZ sites, Freeport East, HPOs, and Innovation Hubs &amp; Clusters.</li> <li>- Activity aligns with National Innovation Strategy – innovation in business; innovation in people; innovation in places; and innovation in technologies.</li> </ul> <p><i>Howard Partridge:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Would appreciate an understanding of the evidence and impact e.g., BT and Adastral Park benefits.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Lisa Perkins asked for slides – would be keen to understand some of the key project activity and how Adastral Park can be leveraged.</i></p>
4	<p><b>SunRISE Coast</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- JR declared an interest as Opergy has been involved in this project and earlier funding bid.</li> <li>- Vision brochure has been shared with the papers in advance of this meeting.</li> <li>- Developed as a collaborative research and innovation programme led by UEA with Cefas, ORE Catapult, and EEEGR. Designed to focus on SNS, clean energy, digital and marine sectors.</li> <li>- Linked to N&amp;S Economic Strategy and UK's Net Zero and Energy Security Strategies.</li> <li>- Three core innovation themes – integration across SNS and its coast; economic and environmentally sustainable multi-use of the SNS; and catalysing future sustainable energy technology and infrastructure.</li> <li>- SIPF bid (submitted Nov 2020) for £32.5m over 5 years was not successful. Updated the scoping report in August 2022 and now developing a new roadmap to revisit SunRISE coast looking at early opportunities for funding.</li> <li>- Stakeholder feedback suggests that the research themes are now more relevant than ever.</li> <li>- New opportunity to look at leveraging student resources to support talent development.</li> <li>- Number of different options have been tabled – do nothing; embedded research centre with UEA; collaborative virtual research institute; this with additional industry facilitation; and then a physical research hub / institute. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Favoured approach is a collaborative virtual research institute with some embedding in the partnership. Additional industry facilitation can be added at a later stage.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identified a few early investment opportunities to kickstart this. Diversified funding model with public and private funding.</li> </ul> <p><i>Lisa Perkins – worth linking in with University of Suffolk’s Suffolk Sustainability Institute and its role within this. Excited about this and want to lean in hard on the opportunities.</i></p> <p><i>Gups Jagpal – keen to support from the Suffolk Sustainability Institute side with Darryl Newport. Will take this conversation offline.</i></p>
5	<p><b>Items</b></p> <p>Innovation Papers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thanked those that attended grow on space meeting. Minded this is a challenge for many partners. Developing a more structured plan for working together e.g., local clusters. Government funding is a major challenge here – need to bring together private sector investors to support some of the developments.</li> <li>- Terms of Reference will need updating. Attached current ToRs. Suggesting the inclusion of Oxford Innovation &amp; Innovation Labs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Have we got enough distinction between Innovation Board &amp; CI Network</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>- CI should be the operational leads, whereas the Innovation Board should be the strategic innovation leads.</li> <li>- Approval for both Oxford Innovation &amp; Innovation Labs to join the Innovation Board.</li> <li>- James updated on Freeport East Innovation strand.</li> <li>- Agreement for Freeport East to be a future agenda item for the Innovation Board.</li> </ul>
6	<p><b>Innovate UK</b></p> <p>Delivery Plan</p> <p>Along with all the other research councils, Innovate UK published our Strategic Delivery Plan at the beginning of September. Some key points of interest are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– We will do more to connect the “innovation ecosystem,” making it easier for businesses to understand and navigate. Working with British Business Bank, Dept for International Trade, Defence and Security Accelerator, the IPO, and NPL on programmes like Analysis for Innovators, see <a href="https://www.a4i.info/">https://www.a4i.info/</a></li> <li>– We will create an on-line Portfolio, where companies that we have supported can choose to highlight their offer to potential investors.</li> <li>– We will create an on-line Innovation Hub that will help businesses navigate the support that we and other national partners offer. Our ambition is that it will eventually encompass regional and local support, but you will understand the additional degrees of complexity that will entail.</li> <li>– Businesses can use our funding finder link -. <a href="https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/">https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/</a></li> <li>– We will introduce an ambitious new programme of Launchpad investments across the UK. We will establish up to ten Launchpad investments, anchored in high-growth innovation SME clusters. We will work closely with STFC Daresbury in the pilot phase to exploit the campus for the benefit of businesses in the North-West of England and embed learnings across the wider programme.</li> </ul> <p>Link to UKRI Strategic Delivery Plans here <a href="https://www.ukri.org/about-us/strategy-plans-and-data/delivery-plans/">https://www.ukri.org/about-us/strategy-plans-and-data/delivery-plans/</a></p>

	<p>Accelerated Knowledge Transfer to Innovate (AKT2I) pilot scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have launched the first round of Innovate UK's Accelerated Knowledge Transfer to Innovate (AKT2I) to test appetite for this shorter version of KTPs. That will close at midday on Friday the 23rd of September 2022. A total of £3m is available to support this pilot and whilst we anticipate running subsequent rounds in October and potentially November, these will be dependent on funding being available from this overall budget.</li> <li>- Have briefed all the universities and colleges who could offer this new product. See link for more details on AKT2I <a href="https://www.ktp-uk.org/accelerated-knowledge-transfer-to-innovate-akt2i-pilot-scheme/">https://www.ktp-uk.org/accelerated-knowledge-transfer-to-innovate-akt2i-pilot-scheme/</a></li> </ul> <p>Offshore Renewable Catapult</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will introduce its Launch Academy technology accelerator programme for East Anglia (New Anglia and Essex) to take a cohort of companies through a tailored 7-month support programme in 2023. Final details are still to be confirmed and announced.</li> </ul> <p>Net Zero Places</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pleased with the degree of engagement in the Net Zero Places pilot we ran in the East of England. <a href="https://www.ukri.org/blog/local-government-collaborating-and-innovating-to-reach-net-zero/">https://www.ukri.org/blog/local-government-collaborating-and-innovating-to-reach-net-zero/</a></li> <li>- As part of Net Zero Places Innovation Network, we are running a working group session (informal discussion) to understand local authorities challenges and barriers with lowland peat.</li> <li>- If you find lowland peat challenging in your carbon accounting and would like to have a discussion with other authorities, can join Innovate UK next week, on 27 September 10:00-12:00 register here <a href="https://web-eur.cvent.com/event/077e743d-da35-4f17-b2ca-c7bd9abde163/summary">https://web-eur.cvent.com/event/077e743d-da35-4f17-b2ca-c7bd9abde163/summary</a></li> <li>- Innovate UK's KTN are now in discussions with New Anglia LEP about establishing one of four pilot schemes to encourage the adoption of lower carbon technologies and business practices in the area. As a next step, Innovate UK KTN will present to the Connected Innovation Network meeting on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September.</li> </ul>
7	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Space Sector Plan for Norfolk &amp; Suffolk is going to the LEP Board. Underpins future bids to UK Space Agency for future funding. Julian mentioned bids going in around Cluster Development and resource. Opportunities cover a wide range of sectors, with several key organisations represented. Can provide update at future meeting.</li> <li>- Scott will continue to circulate event information with the Board as conversations continue and can provide a greater update at next meeting.</li> </ul>