

## Innovation Board Agenda, Minutes and Paper

14:00 – 16:00, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022

### Agenda

1. Minutes from the meeting held on 15 December 2021
2. Stakeholder Engagement Update (Stuart Brocklehurst)
3. Levelling Up White Paper *Discussion* – Paper 1. (All)  
(Paper attached provides summary)  
(Full document at:  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1052706/Levelling\\_Up\\_WP\\_HRES.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1052706/Levelling_Up_WP_HRES.pdf) )
4. Innovation and skills (Stephen Mariadas)
5. Next LEP Panel Survey Proposal *Discussion* (Andrew Dean/All)
6. Request from DCAA: showcasing innovation (Stuart Brocklehurst)
7. AOB and new opportunities (All)
8. Dates for the next 2 meetings

### Contact

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Minutes and Papers follow.

# Innovation Board Agenda, Minutes and Paper

09:00 – 11:00, 15 December 22nd 2021

## In attendance

Stuart Brocklehurst, Icarus Allen, Sally Basker, Stephen Mariadas, Paul Coles, Layla Burrows, Claire Gibson, Victoria Hatfield, Dan Pritchard (Tech SW), and Andrew Dean.

## Apologies

Cathrine Armour, David Ralph, Chris Evans, Adrian Dawson, Jane Portman, Mark Ratcliffe, Martyn Ashford, Wayne Loschi and Ian McFadzen.

## Agenda Items

### Declarations of Interest

Members conformed that there were no Conflicts of Interest but that a number had areas of interest and activity which might require a Declaration of Interest in future. These were in relation to:

Stuart Brocklehurst: Applegate had been in receipt of Innovate UK funds in the past and had established links with both of the HEIs on the Board.

Sally Basker: Exeter Science Park had been in receipt of LEP grants in the past and Sally was a Non-Executive Board Member at Exeter Maths School and Plymouth Science Park. As an organisation they provide innovation services.

Steven Mariadas: SWIOT had close relationships with both of the HEIs and with 5 local FE colleges. . They had received money from Dept of Education and the High Value Manufacturing Catapult.

Layla Burrows: Innovate UK was encouraged to join Boards such as the Innovation Board. Layla does not assess bids so there was no conflict of interest.

Claire Gibson: Claire was leading work around Ocean Futures, some associated strategic planning and longer-term planning in the LEP and the Build Back Better Plan.

Icarus Allen: Icarus is Chief Executive of PML and PML Applications Ltd. PML had utilised Innovate UK funding in the past. PML were also involved in the emerging Ocean Futures piece and had links with MOD and other branches of government associated with their core activities.

Paul Coles: None.

Victoria Hatfield: A Governor of a School. In her work on the Council she had links with the Exeter Science Park and Exeter City Futures. The Council was in receipt of Government funding from Homes England and MHCLG.

Dan Pritchard: Dan is the MD of Astley Media and Co-Founder of TECH SW. he therefore is involved in Comms for a number of regional organisations including the LEP and SWBC.

### Minutes from the meeting held on 22nd September 2021

The minutes were amended to recognise that David Ralph had attended.

Paul Coles raised the issues that Lord Grimstone was working with a list of Investment Opportunities seeking overseas investment: [Investment opportunities - great.gov.uk international](#) Gravity is listed as is Marine Autonomy in Plymouth, Photonics in Torbay and SW Sustainable Aviation.

Paul wondered if the Technopole work should also be communicated to Lord Grimstone's team to enable them to pitch our strengths to foreign investors. There was support for this.

**ACTION:** Paul Coles to communicate information on the Technopole, Ocean Futures and Environmental Intelligence strengths to Lord Grimstone's Team.

Stuart Brocklehurst updated the Board on the links with Sir Geoffrey Cox MP and Michael Gove's Office.

Stuart had circulated a paper from Sally Basker and Ian MacFadzen and himself giving further detail on the Technopole. (Circulated with the minutes).

## **Presentation on the Innovate UK action plan for business innovation 2021 to 2025 (Layla Burrows)**

Layla shared a presentation with the Board. This was circulated with the minutes.

If there were to be another Strength in Places fund (or similar) then the Ocean Futures concept seemed the most appropriate vehicle at the moment. Elements of this could include Environmental Intelligence and Technopole support for SMEs to engage.

Paul Coles pointed out the moving political landscape given the delayed Levelling Up report, County Deals and concerns over the future of LEPs.

Sally Basker suggested Innovate UK should communicate directly with the UK Science Park Association and asked if MPs had a role in supporting the campaign for greater innovation investment. Layla agreed that this made sense.

Layla Burrows stressed the desire to increase EDGE and KTN funding and there was time to help support these bids.

Icarus Allen felt the current three established regional proposals were not mutually exclusive.

Victoria Hatfield asked if the budgets were regional, and Layla confirmed they were national. There are no regional budgets currently.

Stuart Brocklehurst cited SMEs sometimes contact them and lack understanding of how to approach the funding and who and what was eligible.

Layla suggested that any failed applications should speak to Innovate UK Finance centrally for clarification as there can be easy mistakes around areas such as 'risk' that could be quickly remedied to improve scores.

## **Presentation on the Digital Platform Proposals around the Technopole (Dan Pritchard)**

Dan Pritchard presented the TECH SW update on the Digital Platform piece and the presentation was circulated with the minutes.

Stuart Brocklehurst confirmed the Open Procurement for any Platform and that any platform would be set-up by LEP funds and issues such as IP and data controller will need careful management and structuring. Transferability will also be key. Structures around management and control will also be key.

LEP and the HEIs have expertise to support this.

Dan Pritchard recognised that there were already players (such as the Science Parks) in this field that needed to be successfully linked into this work.

Layla Burrows asked if Innovate UK funding would be appropriate and agreed to have a conversation about this as the developer was an SME.

Sally Basker asked if this was 'the Technopole' and Dan felt it was a part of a larger Technopole Ecosystem.

Claire Gibson stated that the LEP saw this as the first stages in establishing a Technopole. They will provide a grant to Tech SW who will no doubt need to use and embed other resources. The LEP will be the owner.

Victoria Hatfield asked if existing delivery routes such as Slack had been reviewed and Dan confirmed this.

### Discussion following the IDE Survey Results and attached Paper (Andrew Dean)

The presentation was circulated with the minutes.

Stuart Brocklehurst recognised that the results indicated that the SWIOT would be critical to helping meet these skills needs.

Steven Mariadas agreed to lead an Agenda item on Skills at the next Board meeting in March.

Victoria Hatfield was interested in how colleges and universities could work better together with schools and local enterprises and that this varied locally.

Claire attended the Skills Advisory Panel and there is a Refresh of current skills strategies (SIF) so we should make sure we join these up.

Sally Basker asked that we remember the difference between jobs and careers and longer-term career paths were available that competed with other regions.

### Verbal update on the latest Technopole developments (Stuart Brocklehurst)

Stuart Brocklehurst met with the SAP and there had been an enthusiastic response from college principals. The All-Party Parliamentary Group had explored potential major asks from the region and there was broad support for existing plans and for a considerable ask.

Stuart had also circulated a paper outlining Draft Technopole Requirements

**ACTION Andrew Dean to circulate document developed by the HEIs and Geoffrey Cox**

**ACTION ALL please to take this and to see which elements they would emphasise, agree with and disagree with. Particularly those areas that they would emphasise, with comments back by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022.**

Layla Burrows has introduced Chris Evans to a colleague to explore skills and therefore Chris needed to be included in discussions around how Skills relate to the Technopole.

#### Verbal update on the Oceans Future Business Plan (Adrian Dawson)

Nothing new to add. The Oceans Future Business Plan has now been developed. *Topic held over to next meeting.*

#### Verbal update on the Environmental Intelligence request of government (Andrew Dean)

Nothing new to add. The Environmental Intelligence Request has now been developed. *Topic held over to next meeting.*

#### Any other business and new opportunities (All)

Claire Gibson stated that the LEP was to make new resource available – up to £8m in Digital awards including one to help deliver their Build Back Better Plan. This latter would include £2.6m in capital resources around Tourism and Data Analytics and Digital Innovation. Including areas potentially such as Marine Geospatial, AI, Agritech and Environmental Intelligence. LEP will go out with a call for EoI for up to £2m. Claire would like to have conversations with potentially interested parties. Formal documentation to be made available in mid-January.

**ACTION: ALL get back to Claire if interested.**

*Date of next meeting: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022, 2-4PM*

#### Contact

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# Paper 1. Levelling Up White Paper

## Summary<sup>1</sup>

Long-promised plans to close the gap between rich and poor parts of the country have been announced by the government. The strategy, unveiled by Levelling Up Secretary Michael Gove, will take until 2030 and aims to improve services such as education, broadband and transport. Critics have already identified that this appears to contain little new money.

The strategy includes 12 national levelling up Missions, given status in law, which will shift government focus and resources to Britain's "forgotten communities" throughout 2020s. This is described as the "biggest shift of power from Whitehall to local leaders in modern times" - as every part of England could get 'London style' powers and mayor if they wish to.

Importantly for the University we do see domestic public investment in Research & Development set to increase by at least 40% across the North, Midlands, South West, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Something as an institution we have been pressing hard with regional partners.

By 2030, other missions will see:

- The rest of the country's local public transport systems becoming much closer to London standards
- Most of the country gain access to 5G broadband
- Illiteracy and innumeracy in primary school leavers effectively eliminated - focussing the government's education efforts on the most disadvantaged parts of the country
- Hundreds of thousands more people completing high quality skills training every year
- Gross disparities in healthy life expectancy narrowed
- The number of poor-quality rented homes halved
- The most run downtown centres and communities across the country rejuvenated
- A significant decrease in serious crime in the most blighted areas
- Every part of England getting a 'London-style' devolution deal if they wish to.

Whilst the missions are UK-wide ambitions, in the many instances where they are driven by devolved policy levers, the UK government wishes to work hand in hand with the devolved governments to achieve them.

The missions will be underpinned by a suite of public metrics to track progress and monitor the evolution of spatial disparities. The government will legislate such that it has a statutory duty to publish an annual report updating the public on the progress of these missions.

The document further sets out the government's intention to mobilise £16 billion of the Local Government Pension Scheme for investments in local projects - recognising that too much at present is invested outside the UK.

The government will fund ambitious plans for bus improvements in areas where this can make the most impact, including the mayoral city-regions, Stoke-on-Trent, Derbyshire and Warrington.

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[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1052046/Executive\\_Summary.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1052046/Executive_Summary.pdf)

## Content of the Levelling Up Bill

Prime Minister Boris Johnson put "levelling up" at the heart of the Conservatives' election-winning manifesto in 2019. The government has previously launched several schemes aimed at boosting regional development. The problem that the government seeks to solve with its "levelling up" agenda is clear - the fact that the UK is one of the world's most geographically unequal major economies - and that has worsened over the past three decades.<sup>2</sup>

At the heart of the strategy is a plan to create more regional mayors and every part of England would have access to "London-style" powers and a mayor if they want it, according to the levelling-up strategy, with the expectation that they would be able to target spending more effectively.

Mr Gove's plans would bring all existing initiatives together into 12 "national missions" and set up a system for measuring progress. Among the 12 missions are promises to refocus education spending on disadvantaged parts of the country and eliminate illiteracy and innumeracy; bring the rest of the country's public transport closer to London standards and provide access to 5G broadband for the "large majority" of households.

Derelict urban sites in 20 towns and cities will be targeted for redevelopment intended to create more high-quality jobs, with Sheffield and Wolverhampton the first places selected<sup>3</sup>.

Many of Mr Gove's missions are existing government policies, with funds already allocated to them, but he says they will be enshrined in law for the first time. Most of the policies in the White Paper apply to England only, but the government insists levelling up is a UK-wide initiative and it wishes to work with the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to achieve this.

The plan includes £100m of new government funding for "innovation accelerators" to boost research and development in Greater Manchester, the West Midlands and Glasgow City-Region.

One of the shifts in funding is in housing, where an existing rule that 80% of government funding for housing is spent on London and the south-east of England will be scrapped and spending allocated to the North of England and the Midlands.

### Intelligence Functions

The Government will transform its approach to data and evaluation to improve local decision-making. In the past, it has been difficult to see what is being spent, where and how it is being spent, and its impact. The Office for National Statistics' Subnational Data Strategy aims to improve the UK's subnational data, mapping local economic geographies and helping improve transparency and accountability to the public.

This means making available interactive tools and maps to facilitate this process. It will also encourage innovative uses of real-time data at the local level, giving leaders across the UK the information they need to deliver, experiment and evaluate swiftly and effectively.

### Oversight

A new regime to oversee its levelling up missions, establishing a statutory duty to publish an annual report analysing progress and a new external Levelling Up Advisory Council. The Council will support Ministers by advising on the design, delivery and impact of levelling up policy. The annual report will update the public on progress against the missions so that levelling up is subject to rigorous external scrutiny, including by Parliament.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-60216307>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-60183453>

### Boosting pay and productivity, especially in places where they are lagging

There is an aim of contributing towards domestic public investment in R&D outside the Greater South East – increasing this by at least 40% by 2030. The Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) have committed to invest at least 55% of their domestic R&D funding outside the Greater South East by 2024/5. Commitments to increase public investment have been made by DHSC, MOD, DfT and Defra. This additional government funding will seek to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.

The White Paper also announces 3 new Innovation Accelerators, major place-based centres of innovation, centred on Greater Manchester, the West Midlands, and Glasgow-City Region. These clusters of innovation will see local businesses and researchers in these areas backed by £100 million of new government funding to turbo-charge local growth, learning from the MIT-Greater Boston and Stanford-Silicon Valley models.

### Schools

55 Education Investment Areas (EIAs) will be designated in local authorities in England where school outcomes are currently weakest. These areas, 95% of which are outside London and the South East, will benefit from intensive investment and support. They will be supported by the Department for Education (DfE) offering retention payments to schools in these areas ensuring they can retain the best teachers. And will be prioritised for new specialist sixth form free schools that will ensure talented children from disadvantaged backgrounds have access to the highest standard of education this country offers.

These areas include Plymouth, Somerset (and North Somerset), Dorset and Cornwall, but not Devon. The policy, which will target maths, physics, chemistry and computing teachers in the first five years of their careers, is also itself a modified version of a 2019 scheme that ministers scrapped in 2020. The 55 “education investment areas” to benefit for the programme (listed in full below) will be prioritised for new “elite” sixth form free schools in the next wave of applications.

### Skills

Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) will be rolled out with funding across England, giving local employer bodies and stakeholders a statutory role in planning skills training in their area, to better meet local labour market needs. To better understand the skills gaps, the Education Secretary is establishing a new Future Skills Unit which will look at the data and evidence of where skills gaps exist and in what industries.

A new skills mission will target 200,000 more people in England to help them complete high-quality training each year by 2030, including 80,000 more completing courses in areas of England with the lowest skills levels.

Thousands more adults will soon be able access free, flexible training and get the skills needs to secure careers in sectors including green, digital and construction as part of up to an additional £550 million boost to expand the popular Skills Bootcamps across the country. Prisoners can also now take advantage of Skills Bootcamps as part of a new trial to support them to find work on their release, levelling up opportunities for more people.

Government is committing itself to making Institutes of Technology the pre-eminent organisation for technical STEM education in England, through which successful ones may apply for a Royal Charter. This will help secure their long-term position as anchor institutions in their regions, placing them on a par with the UK’s world-leading historic universities.



The government will also aim to double the capacity of the Supported Internship programme to provide thousands more young people who have additional needs with the skills to secure and sustain paid employment. Backed by £18 million over three years, the programme will additionally drive up the standards and quality of internship delivery across the country for students who have an Education Health and Care Plan.

### Health inequalities

The government will set out its strategy to tackle the core drivers of health inequalities through a new White Paper on Health Disparities published later this year.

Recommendations will be taken forward from Henry Dimbleby's review towards a National Food Strategy. DfE will work with the Food Standards Agency to pilot measures to ensure greater compliance with the school food standards. The government will pilot the Community Eat Well programme, enabling GPs to prescribe exercise and healthy food.

### Restoring local pride

The government will support 20 of our towns and city centres, starting off with Wolverhampton and Sheffield, undertaking ambitious, King's Cross-style regeneration projects, transforming derelict urban sites into beautiful communities. This work will be spearheaded by Homes England, which will be repurposed to, in addition to its existing functions, regenerate towns and cities.

The government was expected to announce seven or eight areas as the first recipients of new 'county deal' powers alongside the white paper. Instead, the white paper contains a 'devolution framework' for those areas to discuss with officials what they want. Ministers have made clear their preference for mayors within new devolution structures, and although areas are being considered for deals without mayors, there is an expectation those areas willing to take on mayors will get more generous deals.

### Housing Supply funding

The '80/20 rule' which leads to 80% of government funding for housing supply being directed at 'maximum affordability areas' - in practice, London and the South East - will be scrapped, with much of the £1.8 billion brownfield funding instead being diverted to transforming brownfield sites in the North and Midlands. The Metro Mayors will be allocated £120 million of this funding.

Home ownership will be boosted due to a new £1.5 billion Levelling Up Home Building Fund being launched, which will provide loans to SMEs and support the UK government's wider regeneration agenda in areas that are a priority for levelling up. The government will further commit to building more genuinely affordable social housing.

### Cultural Spending

The White Paper will commit the government to significantly increasing cultural spending outside the capital and commit that 100% of the Arts Council England funding uplift agreed at the latest Spending Review will be spent outside London. The Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport said that Arts Council England will identify the locations of more than 100 places outside of London to benefit from extra cash from 2023.

In October's Spending Review, chancellor Rishi Sunak said more than £850m was being invested in cultural and heritage infrastructure. In a recent Daily Mail piece, The Levelling Up Minister wrote:

*"The money we spend on culture has been over-concentrated in London and the South East for too long as well...The new funding [Nadine Dorries] has secured for the arts will go to communities in the North and Midlands, not Notting Hill and*

*Marylebone. And Nadine will make sure that it's the values of working people, not just the preferences of Primrose Hill, that drive how taxpayers' money is spent on culture."*

### Youth Guarantee

A new National Youth Guarantee will be launched so that by 2025 every young person in England will have access to regular out of school activities, adventures away from home, and opportunities to volunteer.

### Town Centres

The White Paper will announce 68 more local authorities to be supported by the High Streets Task Force to transform their town centres. The government will give local authorities the power to require landlords of empty shops to fill them if they have been left vacant for too long.

£50 million from the Safer Streets Fund will be invested every year to give Police and Crime Commissioners, local authorities, and certain civil society organisations in England and Wales the resources they need to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

### Empowering local leaders

Announcing for the first time a new devolution framework which sets out a clear menu of options for places in England that wish to unlock the benefits of devolution, whether that is moving towards a London-style transport system to connect people to opportunity, improving local skills provision, or being able to act more flexibly and innovatively to respond to local need.

### Shared Prosperity Fund

The £2.6 billion UK Shared Prosperity Fund will be decentralised to local leaders as far as possible, with investments set to regenerate communities, boost people's skills, and support local businesses. It will increase life chances and build pride in place across the UK, by empowering places to invest in local priorities across three priority areas:

- Communities and place
- People and skills
- Local business

This will lead to significant, visible and tangible improvements to the places where people work and live, supporting town centres, high streets, cultural assets and green spaces that have deteriorated over time. This new fund will give communities up and down the UK more reasons to be proud of where they live.

### The 12 'levelling up missions' in Full

1. By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
2. By 2030, domestic public investment in Research & Development outside the Greater South East will increase by at least 40% and at least one third over the Spending Review period, with that additional government funding seeking to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.
3. By 2030, local public transport connectivity across the country will be significantly closer to the standards of London, with improved services, simpler fares and integrated ticketing.
4. By 2030, the UK will have nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for most of the population.

5. By 2030, the number of primary school children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths will have significantly increased. In England, this will mean 90% of children will achieve the expected standard, and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by over a third.
6. By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.
7. By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by 5 years.
8. By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
9. By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
10. By 2030, renters will have a secure path to ownership with the number of first-time buyers increasing in all areas; and the government's ambition is for the number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50%, with the biggest improvements in the lowest performing areas.
11. By 2030, homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst-affected areas.
12. By 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement.

## Innovation Board Membership

Organisation Types	Organisation	Member	Email
<b>CHAIR</b>	Applegate	Stuart Brocklehurst	<a href="mailto:stuart.brocklehurst@applegate.co.uk">stuart.brocklehurst@applegate.co.uk</a>
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<b>3* Key Research Assets</b>	MET Office UKHO PML	TBC Cathrine Armour Prof Icarus Allen	TBC <a href="mailto:cathrine.armour@ukho.gov.uk">cathrine.armour@ukho.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:jia@pml.ac.uk">jia@pml.ac.uk</a>
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