

Minutes from the HotSW Innovation Board

11:00 – 13:00, 24th October 2022

In attendance

Stuart Brocklehurst, David Ralph, Sally Basker, Victoria Hatfield, Paul Powell, Adrian Dawson, Paul Coles, Ian McFadzen, Stephen Mariadas, Layla Burrows and Andrew Dean.

Apologies

Chris Evans, Jane Portman, Ian McFadzen, Icarus Allen, Martyn Ashford and Wayne Loschi.

Welcome new members and membership update

Paul Powell introduced himself to the Board. Paul is Group Head of Innovation for Babcock who are looking to explore connectivity with regional innovation enterprises and groups. Paul's presence was welcomed by the Chair. Members introduced themselves and their roles.

Minutes from the meeting held on 24th June 2022

ADaw and CE to follow up their action with Ben from CBI.

ACTION ADaw and CE: Pursue a quote supporting the MESA.

DR informed the Board that the CBI are now up-to-date with our work and a variety of meetings are ongoing.

The Royal Society meeting took place and they liked the ideas we were espousing.

Potential nominee from MET Office is in train.

Fast Start should be Launchpad (ADean corrected minutes).

Progress with the Innovation ask (Maritime and Environment Science Accelerators (MESA))

Cross-party MP support remains and our MPS agreed this was their number 1 ask of govt. A previous PM had agreed to the proposal, however considerable political upheaval had followed. The case will be put again to the new PM, when in place.

Update on our ongoing political engagement around Innovation

The work continues to attract support from all political parties in the region and this is very positive. There may be some, limited, flexibility on funding levels, but this perhaps needs addressing after possible Treasury feedback. Areas for discussion include:

- Can the bid be strengthened?
- Further nuancing around the emerging Great South West identity and where this sits in the broader region
- Recognition that for now this remains very clearly a HotSW proposal
- Hybrid funding could be available, such as Private sector support for the Maritime Testbed

ACTION ALL continue to support and lobby for the proposal

Great South West Powerhouse status and innovation

Cornwall already active with R&D innovating businesses - both of the IB and the Accelerator proposals links are clear.

Dorset is a little different and less populated by innovation driven activities. Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole is a quite active area for innovation, but some sectors tend to face East.

There is likely to be overlap in membership between our Board and any Great South West Innovation Board.

Members were supportive of the idea of an orderly merging/transition of the two Innovation Boards. The universities have been asked to meet to explore their relationships (there are 5 HEIs in the new geography).

ACTION: SECRETARIAT – we need to co-locate the HotSW and GSW Innovation Meetings to build-in flexibility for how political structures may evolve

Other areas we need to advance in parallel with the Accelerator

We should look at Skills and utilise the Panel for this.

Employers such as EDF and Gravity are growing – alongside plans for floating offshore wind. Energy is an area that we definitely need to look at both as HotSW and GSW.

We need to understand the potential offer from the new Somerset Innovation Service. Our Freeports are also likely to have services such as this.

ACTION SECRETARIAT – invite the various nascent Innovation Services to explain their likely delivery priorities and approaches.

Exeter CC is looking to establish a Green Futures Innovation Hub in the City. Shared Prosperity Funding is likely to support this.

Great South West covers a large geography, and we must guard against dilution. Nonetheless its input to government may be more than the sum of its parts. Other pan-regional areas do have an accelerator, so our request is not unusual in this respect.

Building Support for the Ask – Group Updates

No more updates not already covered.

Innovate UK Launchpad Programme

LB updated the group. As part of Innovate UK's delivery budget, more place-based-programmes were requested and funded. In the Levelling-Up White Paper we were given Innovation Accelerators. Innovate UK also have the Launchpad Programme. If applying to this, the need will be for a strategically built business case where there is real potential for building a cluster. This is now open as an expression of interest – so we need to consider where such a cluster-related bid would best be able to run.

£7.5m available for our region – with a focus on SMEs. Bids under discussion already. Innovate UK will support the business-case work. They have requested this becomes part of their core-budget in Innovate UK in the region. In practical terms - grants are made to SMEs. Geography is not that significant, but the sense of 'clustering' is all important. So SMES applying would need to explain how their proposals would impact on the region.

We need to be careful about the absorptive capacity of our SMEs.

Precisely how the scheme will be run and be managed/overseen is still up for discussion. There will be workshops and opportunities to help SMEs understand the opportunities. Sector teams will be involved. We could possibly provide support for Skills as well – to support this area.

We need to ensure this adds value to the MESA proposal. The cluster geography could well be Great South West. The precise governance geography is not as yet defined/agreed.

ACTION ALL: Prepare businesses to be able to apply to this exciting opportunity

UKRI round of funding for the Local Policy Innovation Partnerships programme

This is a funding opportunity from UKRI which opened 2 weeks ago. Various RCs are involved. It can fund regional partnership activity to link policy with researchers. Small Phase 1 with more opportunity for much larger Phase 2. HEIs are considering their approach.

Devon Innovates – PAPER CIRCULATED for discussion

The paper asks if people wish to be involved in this opportunity from DCC related to the Devon County Show. The County Show reaches a very broad demographic. It raises issues around how we can present our ideas to a broader population. It could be that we engage in some sessions but in its current format the Show is not perhaps ideal to present to the public.

Perhaps, ongoing, the group needs to think about how we reach people with an interest in innovation – but who are not normally able to see what we do.

Suggestions for the next Panel Survey

We have explored Skills in a previous survey, but this seems to be the most sensible route for further exploration.

ACTION ALL: Please write to Andy Dean and Stephen Mariadas with suggestions for what we should explore with the Panel, for example, to support the next phase of the SWIoT.

AOB and new opportunities

Nothing was raised.

Preferred dates for the next two meetings

ACTION SECRETARIAT: Circulate a DOODLE POLL next joint HotSW and Great SW Innovation Board

Contact

Chair - Stuart Brocklehurst stuart.brocklehurst@applegate.co.uk

Secretariat - Andrew Dean a.dean@exeter.ac.uk

Members of the Board

Organisation Types	Enterprise	Member
CHAIR	Applegate	Stuart Brocklehurst
HotSW LEP	HotSW LEP	David Ralph
2* universities	Exeter Plymouth	Chris Evans Adrian Dawson
3* key research assets, Met Office, UKHO, PML	MET Office UKHO	TBC Cathrine Armour

	PML	Prof Icarus Allen
2* science parks	Exeter Science Park Plymouth Science Park	Sally Basker Ian McFadzen
1 rep for innovation centres	EPIC	Wayne Loschi
1 SWIOT and FE	SWIOT	Stephen Mariadas
1 LA ECC, PCC, SCC or DCC	ECC	Victoria Hatfield
1 LA from another LA	South Somerset	Jane Portman
2 Corporate Reps	Babcock Leonardo Helicopters	Paul Powell Martyn Ashford
1 LEP Board Observer	Independent	Paul Coles
1 Innovate UK	Innovate UK	Layla Burrows