

Innovation Advisory Council for Wales

20th June 2022, Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Present: David Notley (DN) (co-chair)
Karen Cherrett (KC) (co-chair)
Anna Nicholl (AN)
Kevin Morgan (KM)
Michael Benfield (MB)
Nick Cook (NC)
Rob Deaves (RD)
Sion Charles (SC)
Stephanie Moran (SM)
Rhys Thomas (RT)
David Cunnah (DC)
Yuhua Li (YL)
James Yu (JY)
Carol Bell (CB)
James Lewis (JL)

Apologies: Siwan Rees (SR)
Nadine Payne (NP)
Ieuan Wyn Jones (IWJ)

Secretariat: Abi Phillips (AP)
Philippa Davies (PD)
Owen Jenner (OJ)

Agenda item		Action
1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>KC welcomed members to IACW and outlined the agenda for the meeting.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and approved.</p> <p>RD stated IACW had provided a response to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee inquiry into the UK being a 'science superpower'. This was delivered on the 24th March 2022, HoL Ref: FUT331775.</p> <p>Council members present were asked to indicate any direct or indirect conflicts of interest in the proposed agenda items. No new interests were recorded.</p> <p>PD to remind members to complete the conflicts of interest register.</p>	PD
2	<p>Innovation Strategy Update</p> <p>AP updated Council on the latest position regarding the innovation strategy. Feedback had been received from Plaid</p>	

	<p>Cymru which was being incorporated into the draft strategy. Translation and web build will be taking place very shortly with an anticipated launch date for consultation at the end of June beginning of July. A number of face to face and virtual consultation events will be scheduled to allow for discussion and feedback.</p> <p>A contract is in place to analyse all the consultation responses. A report containing the detailed analysis is due to be submitted four weeks after the consultation closes, which will be published on the WG website.</p> <p>Once the final draft has been cleared by both Ministers and Plaid Cymru, the final strategy will be launched in the Autumn.</p> <p>PD to send draft strategy to IACW for comment and feedback.</p>	<p>PD</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Working Groups</p> <p>The Chairs of the working groups provided an update on work to date.</p> <p>RD provided the update for the Sustainability working group and recapped the purpose of the group which is to look at how to drive the creation of a prosperous and sustainable society through demonstrating the role of innovation. RD highlighted the 4 areas the group are focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the green economy – work has begun on mapping current examples and producing a library of resource. The group are also looking at activity that's taking place in certain innovation subjects globally; • funding landscape – the group have started building a library of resource; • lifelong skills framework – work is yet to begin in this area; • review of policies across other nations – work is yet to begin in this area. <p>RD to provide copy of slides.</p> <p>RD requested a meeting with the chairs to discuss the direction of the working group.</p> <p>RD queried whether a communication channel could be created where members could share, contribute and comment on information and documents from all working groups due to the cross over of information from all 4 working groups. This will help to ensure the working groups are joined up. PD to investigate.</p> <p>CB to provide Development Bank contact details to RD of colleague working on funding landscape around sustainability and decarbonisation.</p> <p>SC, Chair of the Leadership working group recapped the focus areas raised during the last meeting:</p>	<p>RD</p> <p>RD</p> <p>PD</p> <p>CB</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clearer and more robust leadership within innovation in Welsh Government; • creating a knowledge and skills framework for innovation; • professionalising innovation; • publish expectations for leadership and the public sector; • publish the attributes of innovation leaders; • create room for risk. <p>SC mentioned the group had recently run a workshop. Conversations during the workshop aligned with the thinking of the working group. Discussions focused on what the audience would do to advise Welsh Government and what the group wanted to see from innovation leadership.</p> <p>Points raised included making sure innovation approaches include process and service design; move innovation closer to the reality of putting it into practise; the language of innovation is not always understood; clarity about being able to access funding, which is unclear; encourage increased entrepreneurialism; and risk management and the concept of doing small things that can be learnt from that are safe to fail rather than fail safe.</p> <p>YL updated Council on the Data working group. YL stated there is a need to get more businesses from different sectors involved in the digital economy. YL discussed AI and how the development of a national strategy for AI would benefit the Welsh economy.</p> <p>JL highlighted the amount of activity in Wales in the data, digital and public services space eg, Data Nation Accelerator, Digital Innovation Institute, Y Lab's Infused Program, and spoke about the need to get these organisations together to talk to one another.</p> <p>DC volunteered to be chair of the Outcomes working group. He stated there had been a change to the group membership and requested an additional member join the Outcomes group which will bring fresh input and ideas to the group. A more detailed update will be made at the next meeting.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>AN offered to facilitate a theory of change session. The session has been arranged for 8th July from 10-11. Please let AN know if interested in attending.</p> <p>DN queried arranging a meeting with the Minister. AP suggested September would be ideal timing following summer recess, after the consultation has closed and time for the working groups to present their findings and update on progress.</p> <p>Date of the next meeting to be arranged for early Autumn.</p>	<p>IACW</p> <p>PD</p>