

Innovation Advisory Council for Wales

7th March 2022, Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Present: David Notley (DN) (co-chair)
Karen Cherrett (KC) (co-chair)
Anna Nicholl (AN)
Ieuan Wyn Jones (IWJ)
Kevin Morgan (KM)
Michael Benfield (MB)
Nadine Payne (NP)
Nick Cook (NC)
Rob Deaves (RD)
Sion Charles (SC)
Siwan Rees (SR)
Stephanie Moran (SM)
Rhys Thomas (RT)
David Cunnah (DC)
Yuhua Li (YL)

Apologies: James Yu (JY)
Carol Bell (CB)
James Lewis (JL)
Ian Brotherston (IB)

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

Agenda item		Action
1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>DN 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>IACW wish to thank IB for his time, knowledge and expertise he has shared with Council over the years, who has recently changed role within IUK. IACW welcomed David Cunnah, National Manager for Wales for Innovate UK, to Council.</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>	
2	<p>Innovation Strategy Update</p> <p>AP presented an update on the innovation strategy. Two stakeholder engagement events have taken place to discuss the logic model and strategy. All feedback has been analysed and is being incorporated into the strategy.</p>	

	<p>Drafting of the strategy is underway with contributions being received from all departments in WG.</p> <p>The Co-Production Network for Wales have been appointed to carry out some in depth citizen and community level stakeholder engagement on the strategy. The Logic Model is being used as the basis for these discussions.</p> <p>AP stressed that the UK Government Innovation strategy, and its objectives, are being factored into the WG strategy.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the strategy will be published in June.</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>Working Groups</p> <p>The Chairs of the working groups provided an update and overview of what each working group is doing, where the focus is and what the terms of reference are. DN highlighted the need for the groups to think about which priorities can be achieved in the short term, the medium term and the long term.</p> <p>SC, Chair of the Leadership working group highlighted that the ToR has been drafted and a number of priorities identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To articulate and publish a clear set of attributes and behaviours of innovative leaders. Create a knowledge and skills framework for innovation; • To identify innovative leaders and to promote and recognise their contributions to an innovative and entrepreneurial Wales. Professionalise innovation, give it a framework; • To map out the range of support and development opportunities available for innovative leaders as they develop their careers; • To develop an innovation leadership programme that brings together innovative leaders from across the private, public, education and third sectors; • To develop a toolkit to allow Boards of Directors, Governors, etc. to embrace responsible innovation into the governance arrangements of their businesses and institutions. <p>RD queried whether a chartership for innovation exists?</p> <p>NP highlighted the ToR and priorities for the Data and Digitisation group. NP stated recognising digitalisation and digital transformation and better use of data is going to be essential to drive the modernisation process. The group discussed the health and decarbonisation agenda as two definite strengths to focus on. The working group priorities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bringing together stakeholders to understand and outline data and digitisation opportunities and issues in a transparent and inclusive manner; 	

- improving, preparing and positioning Wales in the digitalisation transition at UK and international level;
- identifying new opportunities to inform the policy making;
- advocate the importance and opportunities of data and digitalisation in the green recovery and zero carbon transition for Wales;
- connect and liaise with the key stakeholders to understand the current innovation landscape on digitalisation and the uniqueness and opportunities of Wales as a nation;
- identify the areas require policy support and understand the effectiveness of corresponding policy;
- establish a knowledge hub pivotal to the Welsh efforts to understand, support and enable a national step change on data and digitalisation in the coming 18 months.

NC, Chair of the Outcomes working group highlighted the ToR and priorities. NC stated that the terms of reference are about developing measures and metrics that will allow us to effectively measure the innovation performance in Wales.

NC highlighted the priorities of the working group:

Examine how innovation is understood across Welsh business.

- What have been barriers to innovation in the past, and what has been achieved; where it is possible to go from the historic conditions that have shaped the current innovation ecosystem and the current state of innovation in Wales. Understand how strategies for promoting innovation in Welsh SME's, such as place-based ones, have affected innovation; and what strategies and practices have been effective elsewhere. Conduct comparative research on how innovation success is measured elsewhere, what support and incentives create and sustain other innovation ecosystems?
- Look at R&D around new, better, improved strategies and practices;
- Consider variety of outcomes and attributes of success across different actors in the business economy – eg. regional/business size differences;
- Ensure outcomes align to all other Welsh Government strategies.

Design a set of measures that can inform system and method for evaluating impact using continuous and terminal evaluation –

- a learning model is essential for Wales to support innovation, to iteratively learn from past, current and future mistakes. A model that monitors change and can differentiate between the different factors and can attribute which interventions have had what effect;
- Develop metrics which are robust & useful enough to be resilient over the medium and longer term (+10 years), through political cycles. Take into account that time scales are likely to be very different for different stakeholders; e.g. politicians, businesses, climate change activists. Critically assess concepts of/for encouraging innovation/s under several different futures and timescales e.g. Steady state

	<p>economic and social continuation; Measures to inhibit mass global migrations; Total failure of climate change initiatives;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data requirements need to be better specified, more fine-grained in terms of frequency and breadth and level of detail. Limiting ourselves to what is currently or readily available, in some cases, doesn't allow us to think beyond our current conditions; • Attempt to define ways of explicitly measuring or intervening to resolve our known current problems, e.g. absorptive capacity, resilience; • Define resilience broadly, including but not limited to environmental resilience; eg. measure and assess progress against how diverse, successful and innovative is our stock of companies; • Take into account the Well-being of future generations act. Part of the reason for innovation is societal advancement and improving quality of life / well-being. The Well-being act offers (at least) 3 goals of immediate / obvious inspiration (i.e. "prosperous Wales" , "resilient Wales", "a healthier Wales". While others such as a "globally responsible Wales" could also offer a lens to look at things like the extent to which innovators are adopting a circular economy approach; • It is vital that we integrate with the other Working Groups. <p>SR discussed the ToR and priorities of the Sustainability working group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Economy – mapping current examples of innovation assisting the notion of improving climate position/sustainability. Building a library of resources that helps to qualify/quantify what activity if any is happening in certain innovative subjects globally; • Funding landscape – analysis into what funding programmes, including the Shared prosperity fund, that are available to support green innovation and what funding gaps are potentially causing challenges and obstacles for green innovation; • Developing a lifelong skills framework that supports the role of innovation, helping innovation readiness; • Review of policies across other nations – how does Wales compare to other nations on using innovation as a method of ensuring and accelerating sustainability. Investigating opportunities to drive cross country collaboration and knowledge sharing. <p>PD to set date for meeting with working group chairs to discuss cross cutting themes.</p> <p>KM to send Basque report on metrics and innovation.</p>	<p>PD</p> <p>KM</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>SM to share report on mapping and measuring the digital economy.</p>	<p>SM</p>

	<p>RD highlighted the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee inquiry in which they are asking for feedback. RD to issue inquiry to Council. IACW to send any comments and responses to RD by 17th March who will collate response on behalf of IACW.</p> <p>Date of the next meeting tba.</p>	<p>RD IACW</p>
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