

MIT REAP Team Leicester strategy overview

Aim	Strategy	Short term	Medium term	Long term	Comments
<p>Bootstraps and beacons Our vision is to combine an approach that seeks to enable an increase in productivity by ‘pulling the manufacturing base up by its’ bootstraps’ through the introduction of Industry four point zero capabilities whilst driving innovative growth through our distinctive Beacon capabilities – space, life sciences, sport, health and cyber security.</p>	<p>Leadership</p>	<p>Establish an adequately resourced LEP Innovation Board chaired by a LEP board champion to drive the agenda</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation Board facilitates resourcing of innovation strategy by ensuring its integrated into LEP Economic Recovery Plan • Uses its convening power to pull together different partners to support and promote innovation in Leicestershire (inside and out of the county) 		<p>Dr Nik Kotecha is Innovation Board chair. Currently finalising business led membership, terms of reference and meeting schedule</p>
	<p>Existing sector & beacon sector accelerators</p>	<p>Continue to develop existing network of ‘Beacon’ innovation accelerators; Space, Automotive, Health and wellbeing, cybersecurity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure funding for Space Park Stage 3 • Launch Beacon accelerators for health and wellbeing, automotive and cybersecurity • Develop business case for further accelerators in our bootstraps sectors; Textiles/Fashion, Logistics, (food) manufacturing, Digital/Creative 		<p>Health & Rehabilitation DIT HPO LLEP part of consortia discussions around East Midlands Freeport and East Midlands Development Corporation.</p>
	<p>Innovation business development campaign</p>	<p>Run Leicestershire Innovation Week June 2021 (and awards) to showcase innovation in Leicestershire</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to run Leicestershire innovation week as a showcase for innovation. • Put on a secure financial footing 		<p>Planning for June 21 LIW starting.</p>
		<p>Continue to promote and develop Leicestershire innovation network - through networking events, speakers etc</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to grow the network including putting on a sustainable footing (learning from other similar networks elsewhere e.g Cambridge Network, Silverstone Tech Cluster) • Create a buzz! 		<p>Will use LIW to promote further.</p>
	<p>Interface spaces for knowledge exchange</p>	<p>Secure resource to audit current innovation provision and needs and develop the business case for any new capacity where gaps exist ii. An innovation brokerage service to act as a specialist signpost between innovation resources and business needs</p>	<p>Subject to business case establish our core innovation support infrastructure of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerator programme focused on our beacon priorities and core beacons & bootstraps; textiles, logistics, manufacturing (including establishing a NatWest Accelerator). • Innovation Hubs <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Make case for an advanced manufacturing technology transfer hub to consolidate HE/Industry collaboration and knowledge exchange pull together existing hubs into a more integrated offer to become greater than the sum of its parts and ii) identify any gaps by place and sector and seek to fill them • Innovation brokerage service created acting as a bridge between innovation services and ‘bootstraps’ companies. 		<p>Gary Dimmock appointed to undertake action/planning around these projects Regional Director, Nat West Bank member of innovation board tasked with securing this! British Business Bank to explore regional Angel funding Continue to strengthen engagement with beacon businesses and to improve links between beacon business and local innovation expertise in local HEI plus linkages between those beacon resources and ‘bootstrap’ companies.</p>
	<p>Capitalise on & coordinate existing assets, expertise & capabilities</p>	<p>iii A new dedicated innovation test bed/maker space</p>			

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	New maker spaces for proof of concept, TRL 7-9 testing & lending libraries				
	Re training & new skills programmes Innovation academy	Collaborate with FE and HE to develop focused training programmes for the manufacturing workforce to enable adoption of new technologies (e.g. AI, big data, automation, low carbon, e-commerce)	Build on the newly announced Textiles Technology Centre, develop Cybersecurity degree apprenticeships at DMU Bid for an Institute of Technology if another round is announced		Need to align skills and innovation agenda more explicitly – via Innovation board. Plus explore opportunities arising from new FE/HE agenda esp greater engagement of business in training specifications.
	Net Zero	Engage with local and regional low/zero carbon innovation programmes to ensure matches with local business and clusters.			

Key

Achieved	
Pending	
Not achieved/behind schedule	

29 January 2021