

Innovation Advisory Council for Wales

20th June 2019, Cardiff City Stadium, Cardiff
Minutes

Present: David Notley (DN) (co-chair)
Kellie Beirne (KB) (co-chair)
Andy Middleton (AM)
Steve Smith (SS)
Claire Durkin (CD)
Ian Brotherston (IB)
Sue Bale (SB)
Helen Swygart (HS)
Kevin Morgan (KM)
Rob Ashelford (RA)

Apologies: Rhys Thomas (RT)
Carol Bell (CB)

Secretariat: Phil Allen (PA)
Philippa Costello (PC)

Guest Speakers: Kirsty Williams, Minister for Education (MfE)
Lee Waters, Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport (DME&T)

Agenda item		Action
1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>DN welcomed council members to the 19th IACW meeting.</p> <p>DN confirmed Carol Bell had been invited to join Council and has accepted. CB has a background in investment banking and is currently a board member of the Development Bank of Wales and chairs their Investment Committee.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were discussed, agreed and approved.</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>IACW Update</p> <p>DN stated he had spoken to all members individually prior to Council to discuss the structure and approach to the forthcoming meeting. He stated the Ministers would be interested in finding out how IACW can contribute to delivering manifesto priorities and commitments and what the Council can practically do to help them deliver their agenda. Discussions centred on the following areas to highlight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the wider definition of innovation in the public space;• challenge led innovation;	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the post Brexit impact; • highlighting that research and innovation are not the same; • the role innovation plays in improving people's lives; • regional economic inequalities – what new economic measure could be used instead of GVA; <p>A discussion was held on some tangible suggestions to leave with the Ministers. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of innovation; • Thought leadership pieces on digital and AI and ethics in the public sector, working with the Learned Society; • Better linkages between university and industry; • Knowledge exchange and transfer are key; • Getting school children thinking about innovative solutions to challenges. 	
3	<p>Data / Insight and Opportunity</p> <p>RA provided an update on Arloesiadur. Scotland are in the process of developing a similar model which will launch early 2020. Nesta will be open to discussing the next version and future developments of Arloesiadur including any lessons learnt from the Scottish project, early next year. RA explained Y Lab are currently working on a project measuring innovation in public services in Wales and will be speaking to Nesta to see if the dataset could be incorporated in to Arloesiadur.</p> <p>IB gave a brief update on Strength in Places. Wave 2 is now open with a closing date of October. He suggested a strong evidence base would be required to accompany the application in Wave 2.</p> <p>KB discussed the lack of Welsh representation on the boards of UKRI and Funding Councils. UKRI are now recruiting for members to sit on all Boards with a closing date of July 29th. It was agreed IACW would work with WSIAC to put names forward, in particular names from Industry. This is an opportunity for Wales to have a voice on the UKRI boards. CD to forward potential candidate names to KB.</p>	<p>RA</p> <p>KB</p> <p>CD</p>
4	<p>Subgroups</p> <p>It was agreed Council would re-introduce the subgroups. Each subgroup would need a Chair/Lead and produce terms of reference which would define what the group aims to achieve including any outputs. Outcomes, if any, from Ministers will also need to be taken forward by the subgroups.</p> <p>Discussions centred on a range of topics which could form subgroups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data, research, evidence and measures - in public services; an alternative measure to eg GVA; Arloesiadur; what are the barriers to adoption; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networks and collaboration – international good practise; influence and thought leadership; • Public sector testbed – Nesta are currently doing some work on testbeds and will shortly be publishing these results. They are looking at practical examples of different types of testbeds globally, of which there are 95 examples. <p>RA to send Nesta's Compendium of Innovation Methods to Council.</p> <p>RA highlighted the Public Service Innovation measure project which Y Lab are currently involved in. RA asked Council if one of the subgroups could support Y Lab in helping to identify the right people to talk to about what should be measured; how it should be presented; what sources should be used; and what other support might people need eg training and skills to allow them to make the best use of the data.</p> <p>A template of the proposed work group topics and structure was created. PC to circulate and ask for nominations to sit on each topic.</p>	<p>RA</p> <p>PC</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Minister for Education and Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport</p> <p>DN and KB provided a brief overview of the previous work and successes of the Council. The NIB, Arloesiadur and International Collaboration projects such as Vanguard Initiative and Manumix were highlighted.</p> <p>MfE queried what the impact is of the activity undertaken by the Council. KB stated the Council had led on the application of the Compound Semiconductor Catapult to IUK. Council regularly provide advice and expertise on International Collaboration projects eg Vanguard Initiative and Manumix and have accompanied WG Officials on Learning Journey visits. KB also highlighted the Arloesiadur model, and stated Scottish Enterprise are now developing a similar model. DN and KB outlined the benefits of Arloesiadur which can be used to gather place based perspectives. It does however require investment and an update. DME&T queried what was required in order to make it a more usable resource.</p> <p>MfE highlighted the work Eluned Morgan is currently leading on to develop a new International Strategy and queried whether IACW would welcome an opportunity to feedback on the work.</p> <p>IACW were invited by DME&T to attend the Precision Agriculture meeting with DME&T and MfE along with stakeholders from academia, business, agriculture and Farming Connect to start scoping work to be taken forward by WG on Precision Agriculture. AM to attend on behalf of IACW.</p> <p>DME&T discussed the plans for the Foundation Economy work which is currently underway. There are 3 areas which are being pursued. The first element is the recently launched £3m challenge</p>	<p>IACW</p> <p>AM</p>

	<p>based experimental fund which has received over 100 EOIs. The idea is to support a series of projects to test how best to support the foundational economy and change the way parts of the economy work. The 2nd area will be looking at scaling good practise. This will involve working with the Public Service Bodies and aims to start looking at procurement. The 3rd area involves how to build and increase the number of grounded firms and create the demand to support these firms.</p> <p>PA to speak to DME&T about lean process management.</p> <p>DME&T outlined the digital public services innovation hub which he is setting up in Ebbw Vale. A report was produced at the end of 2018 which made a series of recommendations on transforming public services through better use of digital. A project is currently being scoped out in WG about what this might do and look like. DME&T explained there will shortly be a Chief Digital Officer for Health and Local Government and there is one for WG, but not one for Wales. It will be looking at a standard setting body that trains and innovates. The Hub will sit in Ebbw Vale and will work with the College to provide jobs for children in digital innovation and also the skills that the public and private sector need. Those that are retained will work on live problems the chief digital officers come up with.</p>	<p>PA</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Challenge Funds and Prizes</p> <p>RA explained the difference between mission driven innovation and challenge prizes. Mission driven innovation is about setting a policy direction that gives a direction of travel whereas challenge prizes incentivise innovation within a certain sector and are an incentive to solve a challenge.</p> <p>GG updated Council on SBRI which are based on EU pre commercial procurement. Instead of writing a specification for a product, you frame what the problem is instead. The products that transpire, solve that particular public sector body's issue, and create a market that doesn't exist.</p> <p>GovTech are a digital version of an SBRI and both GovTech and SBRI are a form of challenge prizes. Wales were approached by the UK Government for advice on how to set up a program and how the process worked. There is a £20m prize fund for GovTech. Wales' success rate in GovTech is high and have taken a quarter of the total UK budget.</p> <p>KM and RA updated on the Public Sector Testbed which has 4 strands. The first strand is concentrating on re-thinking public procurement. KM suggested the sharing of good practise within sectors is inadequate. So this will be aimed at trying to change the culture and realising that low cost does not always mean best value. The strand will be involved in getting the public sector working together and creating models of good practise of what works well where, and why. It involves creating a new model of procurement and deploying it in different sectors. The 3 other strands are:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R&D and Living Labs – how you undertake innovation that is place based; • Start-ups and entrepreneurship – looking at commercial models that exist around public sector innovation; • Challenges - how do you use challenge methodology whether it is mission driven or prizes to deal with overarching things that sit outside of place based innovation. <p>The 4 strands together will form a "public sector testbed" – a space within which public sector innovation can happen based on its need and the challenge.</p>	
7	<p>Thought Pieces</p> <p>A brief discussion was held on potential topics for the provocation/thought pieces. One suggestion discussed was how to disseminate innovation? It was suggested a conversation should be held with the IWA and the Learned Society who have knowledge in this area.</p>	
8	<p>AOB</p> <p>DN and KB to continue discussion on workgroups and allocate names to groups.</p> <p>PC to reschedule July meeting.</p> <p>The next IACW meeting is scheduled for 6th September 2019, venue to be confirmed.</p>	<p>DN and KB</p> <p>PC</p>