

**Scotland CAN DO: Business Innovation Forum
Tuesday 26 March 2019 - 12.15pm to 3pm
Minutes**

1. Welcome

Mr McKee (Chair) opened the meeting, thanked everyone for attending (details at Annex A). He updated members that at the end of February a small group met to consider reformatting and refocusing the Forum. The workshop proposed that the Forum will be structured around three key themes - Visualise, Optimise and Disrupt. Thanked the speakers and noted that it is particularly important to join up with the work of the Strategic Board.

2. Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting of 4 December 2018 were agreed by members, with no other matters arising. He advised that certain actions will be carried forward. These are noted in Annex B.

3. Life Sciences

As part of the continuing sectoral Innovation Snapshots, the Chair invited Mark Cook from the Life Sciences Industry Leadership Group to present their snapshot, a link will be circulated. Key points included:

- sector accounts for 25% of total Scottish BERD;
- on track to meet the Life Sciences Strategy target of £8bn by 2025;
- innovation and commercialisation is one of the four initial work streams of the strategy; and
- the Skills Investment Plan sets out a vision for Scotland to be viewed as a world-class location for employers to be able to have access to a talent pool with exceptional skills.

The Chair thanked Mark and opened the floor for observations/questions from members. The summary of the discussion is as follows:

- Life Sciences and Chemical Sciences sectors have similar skills requirements and have collaborated to develop their skills investment plan;
- the sector is collaborative and keen to grow together (e.g. with academia) for mutual benefit;
- discussions are taking place to ensure wider co-ordination and opportunities for companies to scale up;
- Scotland is perfectly placed to bring together data & life sciences sectors with unique opportunities around the CHI number; and
- Scotland is a great asset for social change and to de-risk technological developments in sector.

4. Workshop overview

The Chair thanked those involved in the workshop and invited Sandy to provide an overview. Sandy advised that the Minister commissioned a workshop to ensure that the Forum was focusing on the right areas and that it was getting the best value from all parties. A key component was firstly to explore should the Forum exist and would anyone miss it if it didn't. There are a number of board doing similar things and it is key to ensure that this Forum has a USP and is adding value. At the workshop it was proposed that:

- Goal – Deliver high value jobs for Scotland, while being mindful of the geographical spread of those jobs.
- Role of the Forum - to provide advice to the Minister on business innovation and scrutinise existing and future innovation policies.
- Future shape for the Forum was floated and broadly agreed. It centred on three key stages:
 - o Visualise (Mapping systems overview);
 - o Optimise (Propose and scrutinise changes); and
 - o Disrupt (Horizon scanning for cultural and technological opportunities).

There is potential for the Forum to look at cross cutting points by considering social, cultural and environmental impacts, rather than solely looking at technology. It was noted that the Minister's role is limited to the public sector innovation support system however this should be no means undermine the importance of the private sector.

The Chair thanked Sandy for his overview and invited questions and discussion from the members, key points included:

- It was agreed that having a common purpose was helpful to ensure that we were all aiming towards the same outcome.
- However there was some debate about whether securing high value jobs for Scotland the correct aim for the group?
- It was noted that we should also be conscious of place and inclusive growth.
- It was questioned if the group was able to think through where jobs should be placed and perhaps should focus on where we would like the Scottish economy to be in 15 years
- We need more companies to scale up in Scotland
- We need to have a team Scotland approach to sharing good practice examples and real life case studies from a range of sectors.
- The Fintech sector for example has a lot of good examples of successful internationalisation that can be used.
- We should explore international examples of innovation clusters, however it was noted that the Forum needs to be clear of its parameters and that scale/clusters could be revisited at a later date.

5. Public innovation support mapping

A key part of the Forum's role is to visualise the innovation support landscape and invited Karen McAvenue, Head of the Innovation Strategy & Life Sciences Team to provide an overview of the public innovation support. It was noted that this sits within wider pieces of work including the work that Ian Jawad presented at the last Forum that was commissioned by the Strategic Unit, the mapping work that Juan will present from Nesta and the work of the Strategic Board. A synopsis of the presentation is as follows:

- Scottish Government design, develop and delivery policy with numerous stakeholders: agencies, enterprise partners and local authorities;
- Innovation in Scotland is achieved through capacity building, direct financial and specialist support from concept to conversion through to commercialisation; and
- Scottish Government assets are via infrastructure, activities and organisations and these include research pools, academia and innovation centres.

The Chair thanked Karen and advised that the next phase is to overlay the map with funding streams, KPIs and private & third sector support to measure the effectiveness and then optimise it and asked members to express an interest if there were able to help progress this. A copy of the presentation will be circulated.

6. Innovation mapping: Nesta

The Chair invited Juan Mateos-Garcia to give an overview of the mapping work his team at Nesta are undertaking. He leads a team which aims to transform innovation policy with new sources of data and analytics methods. The three streams of analysis are Enterprise – innovation in companies, locations and sectors and links with productivity, Research – scientific and technical capabilities, industrial orientation of research, national and international networks and Inclusion – diversity of the innovation workforce. Juan requested that the Forum spread the word about the project, participate in validation workshops and user research to ensure design of the platform meets the needs of the end users. A copy of the presentation will be circulated.

7. Q&A

The Chair thanked Karen and Juan for their presentations and invited questions and discussion from the members. The group discussed how this would fit with the other work

streams and how the metrics could be used. It was noted as a useful tool if able to drill down into specific areas or to identify emerging sectors and opportunities for internationalisation.

8. Innovation progress and activity followed by Q&A

The Chair advised that the next section of the meeting focused on scrutiny of innovation performance to help to optimise the system. He then handed over to Richard Rollison, who provided an overview of the progress made since the publication of the Innovation Action Plan in January 2017. A copy of the presentation will be circulated.

There was discussion around real time metrics which could in part be delivered by the Nesta work however further work was required to share data between SG & Enterprise Agencies not withstanding GDPR.

9. Sub groups update - Data

Postponed until a later date.

10. Strategic Board Innovation Mission

The Chair invited Stephen Boyle from the Enterprise & Skills Analytical Unit to update the members of the plans for the Strategic Board's innovation mission.

Stephen advised that the Strategic Board's focus is to understand and enhance the four enterprise agencies, and the soon to be established South of Scotland Agency, performance to ensure sustainability and greater alignment. Key to this is to ensure that we are getting best value for the £2.4bn investment of which innovation activity is the second largest expenditure within this. It was agreed last week that there would be an innovation focused mission that would be carried out over the next year which seeks to improve Scotland's innovation performance to increase productivity by identifying issues and assessing the impact the agencies have. There will be three phases – descriptive (drawing on existing work), identification of issues (what changes are required) & developing an evaluation framework. After each stage there will be a break point to allow the Strategic board to decide if they want to carry on.

The Chair thanked Stephen and expressed that it is essential that this work is joined up with the Forum and that it should be seen as an asset to do the leg work. Points raised during the discussion included:

- There is a need to establish how the Scottish National Investment Bank fits into the agency structure;
- The Board are open to including ideas from the Forum in their plans;
- There is interest from the Board in improving equality and sustainability in innovation;
- The Board will be looking at process innovation.

11. Sub groups update – FinTech

Postponed until a later date.

12. Workshop discussion

Members were asked for their feedback of the proposed new structure of the Forum. Key points included;

- found this the most informative & helpful Forum to date;
- it is a complex landscape and members want to help to rationalise it;
- Scotland's innovation performance has been improving and that shouldn't be underestimated, the key is to continue that momentum;
- the three themes identified are a helpful framework which will help focus the Forum's remit;
- going forward the agenda should focus on disruption with only small amounts of time being spent on visualising and optimising;
- work could be done offline and shared as papers for the meeting;

- the Forum is a useful place for academia to connect with the innovation eco-system. Universities could help with disruption and what is happening within.

Action – survey to be issued to gather members views based on format today.

13. AOB

The Chair asked if the members had any other business to report or further comments to make. No further comments or business were raised by the members.

14. Close

The Chair brought the meeting to a close and thanked all for their attendance and participation.

ANNEX A

In attendance

Ivan McKee, Minister for Trade, Investment and Innovation (Chair)

Richard Rollison (Deputy Chair)
Innovation, Investment & Industries Division

Stephen Boyle, Scottish Government
Ian Brotherston, Innovate UK
Mark Cook, Life Sciences Industry Leadership Group
Alexander Holt, CivTech
Ian Hunter, SSAC
Will Hutton, Big Innovation Centre
Stephen Ingledew, Fintech Scotland
Siobhan Jordan, Interface

Adam Lang, NESTA
Sandy Kennedy, Entrepreneurial Scotland
Colin MacBean, Scottish Government
Juan Mateos-Garcia, NESTA
Irene McAra-McWilliam, Glasgow School of Art
Peter McColl, Snook
Johnny Mone, Universities Scotland
Derek Norwood, Devro
Ian Phillips, Oil and Gas Innovation Centre
Polly Purvis, Scotland IS
Kathryn Ray, Scottish Government
Laurence Ward, Technology Advisory Group

Partners and Scottish Delivery Bodies

Gillian Galloway, Highlands & Islands Enterprise

Linda Hanna, Scottish Enterprise
Keith McDonald, Scottish Funding Council

Apologies

Henk Berits, Tourism Industry Leadership Group
Audrey Cumberford, Colleges Scotland
Patricia Findlay, University of Strathclyde
Graeme Jones, Financial Services Advisory Board
Claire Mack, Scottish Renewables
Gordon McGuinness, Skills Development Scotland

Nora Senior, Enterprise and Skills Strategic Board
Reemah Shahnab, POMS
David Thomson, Scottish Food and Drink Federation
Joe Tree, Creative Industries

Secretariat - Scottish Government

Karen McAvenue
Kris McKeown
Jamie Steed

ACTIONS

4 December 2018 – Actions Carried Forward

- Following the release of Innovate UK's new 5 year plan in the first half of 2019, a short presentation will be delivered at the Forum – **David Wilkes** – *Plan will not be published until April.*
- Share Birgitte Andersen's presentation – **Secretariat** – *still to receive confirmation from Birgitte that we can share with members*
- Set up Skills-focused sub-group – **Audrey Cumberford** - Unable to attend March meeting – carry forward until next Forum (date TBC)

26 March 2019 - Actions

- Copies of presentations to be circulated - **Secretariat**
- Survey to be issued to Forum members - **Secretariat**
- Put together shortlist of topics regarding disruption for future discussion - **Secretariat**

ILS

March 2019