

**Innovation Strategic Partnership Group  
Tuesday, 26 April 2016  
10.30am – 13.00pm  
Minutes**

**Attendees:**

**Representatives from:**, Enterprise Europe Network, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), Scottish Enterprise (SE), Scotland Europa, Scottish Funding Council (SFC), Scottish Government (SG), SG - Chair and Secretariat

**Apologies:**, Big Innovation Centre, Innovate UK

	Topic	Actions
1.	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	
2.	<p><b>Minutes and Matters Arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes from the previous meeting of 10 September 2015 were agreed.</li> <li>• It was noted that all outstanding Action Points from earlier meetings have been cleared.</li> <li>• The Chair commented that:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Innovate UK Delivery Plan was published on 07 April 2016</li> <li>○ SG colleagues in Digital together with SE and HIE are working on a cross-Scotland bid for a Digital Catapult Centre.</li> <li>○ NCUB launched their 2nd Growing Value Scotland Task Force paper on 07 April 2016.</li> <li>○ National Innovation Plan consultation document had been launched by the UK Government.</li> <li>○ Today's overarching theme is that of reform.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
3.	<p><b>Innovation – Update on Reform and work of Scotland CAN DO Innovation Forum</b></p> <p>SG discussed the “ABC of Innovation Development and Reform”, noting that innovation reform had been mentioned in the draft Budget of 16/17. The following could be options to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Articulating our Ambition:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Defined as reach the top quartile of EU innovation active countries by 2026. This could involve focussing our collective efforts to create ambitious businesses hungry for innovation and making best use of public sector and procurement to catalyse business innovation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

- Building the Right Culture:
  - Promote innovation and innovative thinking as the norm in Scotland. A national conversation to promote understanding of innovation and the benefits it brings with increased collaborative links between business and academia could help achieve this.
- Creating Connections;
  - Streamline the innovation support system, connecting funding and delivery mechanisms to improve outcomes and increase awareness and uptake. Important to ensure Universities and Local Authorities are engaged.

SG advised that following the presentations the break-out groups would be invited to consider each topic:

- Ambition - Public Sector Challenge Fund, introduced by SE.
  - A Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI)<sup>1</sup> programme run in the USA resulted in 70% more jobs and a 30% increase in turnover.
  - Public Sector involvement can ‘de-risk’ the project encouraging private sector participation.
  - SBRI can result in seismic shifts rather than an odd steps, as it is recognised that innovation is not just buying the latest product.
  - The new procurement regulations could result in new opportunities, innovative SME partnerships and an easier journey from proof of concept to commercialisation.
  - With this challenge, SE hope to drive around 130 collaborations involving around 250 companies, and through open innovation impact around five times as many.
  - Funds allocated are £21m over four years to give sufficient confidence to the market to continue themselves.
- Culture - Innovation Scotland Forum<sup>2</sup> introduced by SFC
  - University improvements and aims are linked to outcomes which are included in their funding arrangements. By achieving these outcomes the university sector

<sup>1</sup> See [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/436237/CO-011\\_SBRI\\_JUN15\\_Brochure\\_WEB\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/436237/CO-011_SBRI_JUN15_Brochure_WEB_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/innovationscotlandforum>

	<p>feels like an active contributor that ‘owns’ issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A positive university-business culture and interaction can result in stronger relationships and increased collaboration.</li> <li>○ An encouraging sign is the desire of the universities to be active participants in the meeting the challenge to increase university/business engagement. Continuing to engage with, and consult the universities will be essential for success.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Connections - Health and Wellbeing Pilot, introduced by HIE             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ NHS Boards have different procurement processes and won't accept any procurement checks carried out by other boards.</li> <li>○ There will be procurement experts invited to join the group.</li> <li>○ The SME members should help the group remain grounded and also gain an understanding of business views.</li> <li>○ They are keen to implement change sooner rather than later.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
4.	<p><b>Breakout Groups</b></p> <p>The Chair thanked the speakers and requested members discuss what could be required in order to articulate our ambition, build the right culture and create connections.</p> <p>Selected Suggestions/Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Articulate our Ambition:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Simplification – one ‘front door entry’, one application, one of due diligence check.</li> <li>○ Incentivise by simplifying business access – avoid a complicated support/funding/landscape tying businesses up in knots.</li> <li>○ Accept risk (not recklessness!) and being bolder – Ambition can be risky and we need to realise and accept this. Some countries publish default rates of 45%.</li> <li>○ We're not good at telling a story or promoting ourselves – we need to get the innovation message out there.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Build the Right Culture             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A National Conversation is required – important that business language used.</li> <li>○ Drive by example.</li> <li>○ Engage with business organisations who actively encourage their members to innovate.</li> <li>○ Accept use of public money to drive business innovation – ensure conditionality of receipt.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create Connections:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Backbone is collaboration between the Private and Public sector, with the Public Sector being accessible and easy to connect with.</li> <li>○ SME-led activity shall also make best use of universities success in winning funds from Europe.</li> <li>○ Actions include, identifying details of the mission at a Scotland level and eliciting key advocates, including those vital ‘backbone’ participants.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The Chair thanked all for their contributions and advised that they would be considered as reform progressed.</p>	
5.	<p><b>European Innovation Council (EIC)</b>          Scotland Europa introduced this item and explained that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EIC is similar in set up to the European research Council, but groups together innovation funding rather than research funding.</li> <li>• At present it’s not known how this will link to the Knowledge and Innovation Communities.</li> <li>• There is an opportunity to shape the EIC as it develops.</li> </ul>	
6.	<p>The Chair requested that the following items be discussed outside the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Support Framework for H2020</li> <li>• HEinnovate</li> <li>• ISPG Workplan and Activity Updates</li> </ul>	
7.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b>          There were no points raised and the Chair thanked all for their contributions.</p>	
8.	<p><b>The next meeting will be on 20 September 2016</b></p>	