

Innovation Advisory Council for Wales

29th November 2019, A Space in the City, Cardiff Minutes

Present: David Notley (DN) (co-chair)
Andy Middleton (AM)
Rhys Thomas (RT)
Ian Brotherston (IB)
Sue Bale (SB)
Carol Bell (CB)
Rob Ashelford (RA)
Steve Smith (SS)

Apologies: Kellie Beirne (KB)
Claire Durkin (CD)
Kevin Morgan (KM)
Helen Swygart (HS)

Secretariat: Phil Allen (PA)
Philippa Costello (PC)
Greg Green (GG)

Guest Speakers: Gavin George (GGe) (WG)
Jenny Clark (JC) (WG)
Delyth Morgan (DM) (WG)

Agenda item		Action
1	Welcome DN welcomed council members to the 21st IACW meeting. Council welcomed CB to her first meeting. CB is a board member at the Development Bank of Wales and a director of the Football Association of Wales. The minutes of the previous meeting were discussed: • CD to follow up on International Strategy following IACW's submission to the consultation; • Following Ann Humble's presentation on the impact of Brexit at the September IACW meeting, AH has now changed roles. PC to find out who replacement is and connect with DN; • Move agenda item 4 re OECD report discussion to next IACW meeting; • PA to update Council on TERCW as and when an update is available; • PC to invite Duncan Hamer to next IACW meeting. The minutes were approved and agreed.	CD PC PC/KM PA PC

	Council members present were asked to indicate any direct or indirect conflicts of interest in the proposed agenda items. No new interests were recorded.	
2	Cohesion Project Update GGe updated Council on the COHES3ION project, a 3 year project which started in August 2019 and finishes in March 2022. With a total project value of €1.57 million, it includes 10 partners from 8 European countries - Spain, Italy, Romania, Ireland, Germany, Sweden, Poland and Wales. COHES3ION aims to align innovation policies from a macro to a micro regional level, spreading prosperity across each partner's territories. Phase 1 (24 months) of the project will focus on the learning process and action plan design and phase 2 (12 months) will focus on the action plan implementation. Key outcomes of the project aim to: • positively increase the impact of partner's S3 Strategy; • improve links between operational programmes in the RD&I environment and public and private sectors; • promote a multi-level policy & governance model. DN queried how IACW can support the project. GGe suggested Council could: • provide support on a governance mapping exercise; • attend project field visits where applicable; • help formulate the Welsh action plan and its delivery; • support Wales to deliver a successful project dissemination event in March 2021. GGe highlighted 2 other EU initiatives: 1) MANUMIX - aims to strengthen and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of innovation policy-mixes in Advanced Manufacturing at a regional level through evaluation and policy learning. 2) Vanguard Initiative - brings together over 30 European regions who are committed to inter-regional collaboration. In order to support better connections between regional stakeholders and policy-makers, the Vanguard Initiative has decided to organise four regional conferences during 2020. Wales and Randstad will be co-organising the first of these regional conferences which will be held in Cardiff on 25th – 26th March. DN noted IACW should work more closely with WG in all 3 EU activities.	IACW

3	IACW Update DN confirmed KB is stepping down as Co-Chair but is remaining on Council as a member. DN will remain as Co-Chair for the foreseeable and will be joined by CD. Formal appointment of CD to take place at the next IACW meeting. DN highlighted that the meeting with the Director General for Economy and Transport, Andrew Slade, has been arranged for 12th December which both CD and DN will attend to raise awareness of IACW and innovation. It was proposed that a possible meeting with the DG for Education, Tracey Burke should be arranged to introduce IACW to the education department. Ian Campbell, Chief Executive of IUK, is visiting Cardiff on 29 January 2020. PC to discuss with IB the possibility of IACW meeting with Ian Campbell on the same day. RT reported on a recent meeting with UKRI where it was discussed that there appear to be no substantive offers for big projects from Wales. DN to discuss this issue with Andrew Slade during meeting in December.	PC PC/IB DN
4	OECD Economic Governance Review for WG Move agenda item to next IACW meeting. PC to send report from KM to CB.	PC PC
5	Review of Digital Innovation recommendations DN revealed that Karen Cheritt from PA Consulting is working with WG on taking forward the recommendations proposed in the report. DN will be meeting with Karen in the coming weeks. A discussion was had on whether the recommendations are in line with Council opinion. It was agreed that Council would endorse the findings and propose 2 top recommendations: 1) Skills – of the current and next generation. Wales needs to become more digital literate; 2) Digital Twin – which could become an enabler for other things, which the Government need to engage with. IACW to write to Ken Skates and Kirsty Williams identifying their proposed top 2 recommendations.	
6	IACW Sub-groups RA reported on Public Services subgroup and highlighted the objectives and key results and queried whether they were the right ones. RA noted quick tangible outputs are needed.	

	RA queried whether there is space in innovation in the creative industries that could be linked to innovation in public services. RA agreed the objectives needed refining. AM reported on Precision Agriculture sub group and suggested that according to the definition of precision agriculture, that boat has sailed. It focuses now on data on wellbeing, food etc. AM queried how do you future proof agriculture? AM suggested a project was needed to get up and running.	
7	Ser Cymru III DM explained that Ser Cymru is a multi-million pound funding programme designed to bring scientific talent into research posts in Wales. It is funded by the EU, WG and HEFCW. The 1st phase of Ser Cymru focused on excellence and was set up by the Chief Scientific Adviser for Wales (CSAW), John Harries. The 2nd phase of Ser Cymru was set up by Julie Williams, Wales' 2nd CSAW, and focused on building capacity in STEMM. The 3rd phase, Ser Cymru III, is being set up by Peter Halligan, the current CSAW. The new Ser Cymru programme is a suite of funding opportunities which are focused on further developing Wales' academic and industrial partnerships, both in the UK and globally, to futureproof continued research excellence. There are 5 new awards: • Future Generations Industrial Fellowships – aimed at strengthening the relationship between Welsh academic researchers and UK and global industrial partners; • Science Foundation Ireland Industrial Fellowships – aimed at strengthening our academic and commercial partnerships with Ireland; • Strategic Partnership Accelerator Awards – aimed at strengthening established strategic research partnerships; • Infrastructure Accelerator Awards – aimed at supporting multi-user equipment purchases; • Capacity Building Accelerator Awards – aimed at building and strengthening capacity in smart specialisation areas.	
6	AOB DN suggested more industry representation is needed to join Council. Please send any suggestions to PC. The next IACW meeting is scheduled for 28th February 2020, venue to be confirmed.	IACW