

Scotland CAN DO Business Innovation Forum
25 September 2018 - 11.00-13.30
Minutes

1. Welcome

Mr McKee (Chair) opened the meeting, and thanked everyone for attending. He noted that this was his first Forum and he was looking forward to meeting members in the future. He advised that he was keen to identify how the Forum can be used, strategically, to increase and encourage innovation. He remarked that the meeting ahead would be interesting, noting in particular the presentation of the Innovation Snapshots, which Derek Mackay, Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work, would be attending to hear.

2. Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting on 24 April 2018, were agreed by members.

3. Innovation progress and activity followed by Q&A

Richard Rollison presented on the current economic position, and recent and future innovation activity. To ensure an open and transparent process, copies of the presentations will be published online alongside the minutes. Key points included:

- **Directly encourage more business innovation**
 - **Recent Activity:** The first £15m released of the £45m R&D Boost for business.
 - **Future Activity:** Scottish Growth Scheme support being expanded to cover debt (up to £1m), microfinance (less than £25k) and equity (£1m+).
- **Use public sector needs and spend to catalyse innovation**
 - **Recent Activity:** CivTech 3.0 - 118 applications for 10 challenges – from stopping illicit trading to re-using products in the NHS.
 - **Future Activity:** Next round of the CAN DO Innovation Challenge.
- **Support innovation across sectors and places**
 - **Recent Activity:** Medicines Manufacturing Innovation Centre funding to create high value jobs and attract R&D investment
 - **Future Activity:** Building Scotland Fund is a capital based approach to business led R&D or innovation offering loan or equity to non-public sector organisations
- **Make best use of University research knowledge and talent**
 - **Recent Activity:** College Innovation Accelerator Fund (£100K): £4K has been offered to all 25 colleges to support their business development strategies.
 - **Future Activity:** £11.6m for universities to support business partnerships and UK Industrial Strategy activity.

The Chair thanked Richard and invited discussion. Key points included:

- Sectors are not limited to working in their own area, cross-sectoral collaboration is of increasing importance.
- Scotland has been successful in collaborations with Innovate UK, e.g. Robotics.
- There's a challenge to build a culture of innovation in the workplace.
- Businesses do not always self-identify as innovative.

The Chair thanked members for their input and contribution to the discussion.

4. Innovation Snapshots presentations

The Chair welcomed Mr Derek Mackay, Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work, who joined the meeting.

The Chair advised that following the last Forum meeting in April, Stephen Ingledeu (Fintech), Henk Berits (Tourism), and Claire Mack (Renewables) had been invited to work with SG, the Enterprise Agencies and the DataLab to pilot the completion of Innovation Snapshots for their sectors. The Snapshots are an attempt to present sectoral innovation information in a consistent manner to facilitate collaboration and provide 'real-time' information on the current innovation position, complementing the more commonly used historic statistics. The Chair invited the three sector representatives to deliver their snapshot presentations.

Stephen Ingledeu - Fintech

Key points included:

- FinTech is cross-sectoral, not solely financial: it has economic and societal benefits
- Credentials exist in Scotland for it to be a global Fintech hub
- Fintech businesses in Scotland have risen from 26 at the start of the year to 60; some of these are new but others have relocated to Scotland.

Claire Mack - Scottish Renewables

Key points included:

- Innovation is in the DNA of the Renewables industry
- Offshore wind is the industry's key innovation success story
- Small Scottish islands have world-leading, innovative energy systems

Henk Berits - Tourism

Key points included:

- There is a need to leverage and amplify small-scale Tourism projects
- The industry is leading a campaign to get young people working in Hospitality
- A baseline needs to be devised to measure innovation in the industry

The Chair thanked all and invited Mr. Mackay for his thoughts on the presentations.

Key points included:

- R&D spend is less than expected, but Scottish reputation in R&D is strong
- SG cannot design solutions, but can create an enabling environment
- The Snapshots were useful, mind opening and generated excitement

The Chair thanked him for his contribution, noting that his thoughts on the Snapshots were similar. Mr. MacKay then left the meeting.

5. Innovation Snapshot Insight

The Chair invited Joanna McKenzie from DataLab to address the members. Joanna had helped Stephen, Claire and Henk with the visualisation part of the process and shared her thoughts on the future of the snapshots. Key points included:

- The Snapshots should be an iterative process.
- Look back at the Snapshots and consider what the information provided tells us about each sector in order to apply that understanding to other sectors.
- People need to be involved in data, instead of just gathering information.
- Improvements in one sector can be applied as a tool to assist another.

The Chair thanked Joanna and agreed that sector crossover has great value and through this we can make connections to facilitate the creation of world class, exportable products.

6. Q&A and discussion on Snapshots

The Chair then opened up the meeting for the members to discuss the Snapshots, asking members to also consider how we all – Public sector, Private Sector, etc. - can make innovation happen and also help develop the cross-sectoral connections required to grow world class products, advising that he was looking for actions.

Key points included:

- The Snapshots are a hugely important form of baselining to gauge innovation performance
- Supplementary information should be captured: e.g. job quality, fair work data
- The Open Innovation portal can showcase what everyone is doing to boost innovation
- Scotland's location and size can become advantageous for driving innovation
- It is much easier to collaborate in Scotland

The following points were made as the discussion expanded:

- Business should develop innovation capability in order to deploy new skills
- Seek to create a collaborative culture within businesses
- How does everyone make the most of their networks?
- The Forum should seek to be a project based environment and more emphasis away from discussion based meetings
- An online platform would be useful for Forum members to assist any projects
- The Forum can take issues and seek to solve them in a basic innovation exercise with Forum members taking responsibility for the exercise and report back to the Forum

The Chair thanked all for their input and advised that the Snapshot pilot should be extended to examine a further three sectors with a view to rolling out across the Industry Leadership Groups.

7. Closing remarks

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

Next meeting:

Date and time: Tuesday 4 December 2018, 10am-12.30pm

Venue: National Records of Scotland, New Register House, Dome Seminar Facility, 3 West Register Street, Edinburgh EH1 3YT

Actions

1. Arrange meetings between Chair and Forum members - **Secretariat**
2. Provide BERD spend as a share of turnover by sector - **OCEA**
3. Policy leads and OCEA to discuss other statistics that can be used to show progress in innovation activity - **Secretariat**
4. Provide more information on Open Innovation portal – **Karen McAvenue**
5. Interim proposals of collaborative problem-solving projects to be sent to Chair – **Secretariat.**
6. Digital platform to permit Forum members to collaboration to be set up - **Secretariat**
7. Creative Industries, Food and Drink, and Life Sciences to be invited to complete Innovation Snapshots - **Secretariat**
8. Reply to Mr McKee with responses to questions he posed at meeting – **All**

In attendance

Ivan McKee, Minister for Trade,
Investment and Innovation (Chair)
Derek Mackay, Cabinet Secretary for
Finance, Economy and Fair Work
Richard Rollison (Deputy Chair)
Innovation, Investment & Industries
Division
Henk Berits, Tourism Industry
Leadership Group
Marina Curran, OCEA
Will Hutton, Big Innovation Centre
Patricia Findlay, University of
Strathclyde
Stephen Ingledew, Fintech Scotland
Sandy Kennedy, Entrepreneurial
Scotland
David Lott, Universities Scotland

Claire Mack, Scottish Renewables
Irene McAra McWilliam, Glasgow
School of Art
Peter McColl, NESTA
Joanna McKenzie, The Data Lab
Derek Norwood, Devro
Elinor Owe, Scottish Government,
Creative Industries (observer)
Jessica Scriven, OCEA
Reemah Shanab, POMS
Yasmin Sulaiman, Creative Industries
David Thomson, Scottish Food and
Drink Federation
Joe Tree, Creative Industries
Laurence Ward, Technology Advisory
Group

Partners and Scottish Delivery Bodies

Stuart Fancey, Scottish Funding
Council
Laura Goodfellow, Interface
David Howie, Highlands and Islands
Enterprise

Ian McCoull, Scottish Enterprise
Keith McDonald, Scottish Funding
Council
David Wilkes, Innovate UK
Paul Zealey, Skills Development
Scotland

Apologies

Audrey Cumberland, Colleges
Scotland
Ian Hunter, SSAC
Graeme Jones, Financial Services
Advisory Board
Siobhan Jordan, Interface
Andrea Nolan, Universities Scotland
Geoff Mulgan, Nesta
Gordon McGuinness, Skills
Development Scotland

Ian Phillips, Oil and Gas Innovation
Centre
Polly Purvis, Scotland IS
Nora Senior, Enterprise and Skills
Strategic Board
Dave Tudor, Life Sciences Scotland
Jim Watson, Scottish Enterprise

**Secretariat
Scottish Government**

June Love
Karen McAvenue

Kris McKeown
Sharon Miller