

Innovate UK

Meeting of the Innovate UK Council

Wednesday June 19th, 2019

Summary of meeting

Sir Harpal Kumar welcomed Council members to the Digital Catapult. The minutes of the previous meeting of Council (04.04.19) were agreed and deemed accurate. Apologies and conflicts of interest were reviewed

Innovate UK Performance Related Pay

A verbal update of the meeting held on July 7th was given from the Chair of Innovate UK's Remuneration Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to oversee Innovate UK's Performance Related Pay (PRP) process and provide guidance, oversight and governance of the method used. An update was given on the review of the legacy Innovate UK PRP scheme.

It was explained that Innovate UK has delivered an enormous amount of work in the last year and had followed the PRP process appropriately.

Executive Chair Overview

The Executive Chair's Report was reviewed. An update on the recruitment process for a Director of Major Programmes Governance and a Director of Strategy and Impact was given. Certain Council members will be involved in the final interviews. Recruitment for new members of Council was discussed. Recruitment campaigns to recruit into ISCF roles was considered.

An update on transformation Wave 1 was given this will develop over the year.

Council was pleased that Innovate UK published its Delivery Plan for 2019-2020, alongside the other Councils within UKRI.

Council agreed that the EUREKA Global Innovation Summit in Manchester (14-15th May) was a huge success. Chris Skidmore opened the Summit. David Willetts, UKRI Board member, opened the second day. In total over 1,800 delegates, from over 60 countries attended. Council expressed their thanks of the team who created and worked on the Conference.

Innovate UK Diversity and Inclusion

Council heard about Innovate UK's diversity and inclusion programmes. The programme's objective is to boost the economy by encouraging more diversity in business. Two approaches have been targeted: Women in Innovation and Ideas Mean Business, targeting 18 – 30 year old (not in full-time education, training or employment) whilst also embedding diversity and inclusion within programmes including ISCF and GCRF. As a result of these programmes Innovate UK has seen a 70% increase in number of women applying to Innovate UK for funding.

Presentation from Dr Jeremy Silver including a tour of the Future Networks Lab

The CEO of the Digital Catapult, Jeremy Silver, and Jessica Rushworth, Director for Policy and Strategy at the Catapult explained how the Digital Catapult is driving early adoption of digital technologies. Council also toured the Future Networks Lab, a facility specifically designed to test, develop and experiment with 5G and low-power wide-area network technologies.

Innovation Talent and Skills

Innovate UK has been exploring the future skills implications for UK businesses in meeting the challenges of the modern Industrial Strategy and 2.4% GDP investment in R&D. Council heard about Innovate UK's role within UKRI in ensuring that the business demand for skilled personnel is well understood and articulated against the strong desire to ensure excellent academic skills. Council decided they would like to revisit this topic to understand how Innovate UK should influence and identify businesses skills requirements.

Comprehensive Spending Review

Council members were provided with an update on the development of Innovate UK's thinking on the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review. Scenarios were presented. It was evident that thinking behind figures was aligned to Innovate UK's Delivery Plan. Given the likely delay in the CSR Council would like to revisit the CSR proposals at future Council meetings.

Data visualisation tool and how data can be mined

Council were presented with openly available Innovate UK Data Visualisation Tool which builds from Innovate UK's transparency data on gov.uk. Council members were shown how to filter by postcode on the map showing Innovate UK funded projects since 2004.

Risk Register

Innovate UK's Risk Register was reviewed. Council heard about the a new risk reporting format being introduced to facilitate EMT and Council engagement and discussion of Innovate UK's corporate risks. Council agreed that their role is to ensure that the high-level risks are acknowledged and tracked. The risks surrounding ISCF were discussed, Council were satisfied that delivery risks and external risks are being managed appropriately.

Council feedback on papers

Council discussed and considered Innovate UK operational performance provided to them in the standard pack of papers. Council appreciated the work and information provided to them. For future meetings Council would like a verbal update on what is being discussed at UKRI level.