



Meeting of the Innovate UK Council
Thursday 13th February, 2020
Summary of meeting

The Chair welcomed Council members, especially our new members Matt Clifford and Isabel Fox. The Council was deemed quorate, with apologies received from Arnab Basu and John Latham.

Executive Chair Overview

Council welcomed the news that Innovate UK had supported start-up Electric Vehicle company, Arrival, to become one of the UK's largest unicorns, attracting investment from Hyundai, Kia and a large order for 10,000 vehicles from UPS. Council wished to thank the Land Transport Team and all involved in enabling the company's success.

Council were pleased that overall Innovate UK received the best outcome across UKRI in the recent People Survey. The survey showed that 66% of staff are well engaged.

Council were presented with an updated Organisation Chart showing recent and imminent C-suite appointments.

The ONS's review of the classification for the Offshore Renewable Catapult is to report on the 19th February. Council emphasised the potential impact which Catapults could play in growing sectors of industry and be strong navigation centres for FDI. It was acknowledged that Catapult network growth depends on the outcomes of the CSR and the ability to operate within non-ringfenced budgets.

Council agreed that work to evaluate strategic frameworks for international collaboration and to deliver longer-term alternatives if the UK cannot associate with EU funding programmes is vital.

It was understood that, at present, approximately 33% of Innovate UK staff will not receive a consolidated pay rise in the July 2019 pay settlement. Council expressed concern and agreed that this may have a serious impact on morale and retention and recruitment of staff.

Single Investor Partnership Model

Council approved the Single Investor Partnership programme, which standardises delivery. The approach involves the vetting of investor companies to create a pool of credible investors who may partner with applicants who indicate that they would like an investor partner.

Innovate UK Communications

Jo Enderby, Head of Business Partnerships UKRI Communications, provided an update on UKRI and Innovate UK communications activities following reorganisation in July 2019. Council welcomed the forthcoming plan for UKRI communications and would like to be involved in the plan's development.

Council questioned whether communications resources should be supplemented to increase activity during the transition phase. Council were pleased that work is underway to produce 50+ success stories over the next 12 months.

Live Demonstration of the Operations Dashboard

Over lunch the Operations Dashboard was demonstrated. The Dashboard indicates competition flows, allowing prediction of peaks and potential blockages in competition activity.

Role of the Council

Council discussed their role, what they are accountable for, their role in supporting and challenging Innovate UK's Executive, and contributing to decision making within the governance structure of Innovate UK and UKRI. Council believed that they should be empowered by UKRI to be thought leaders, have an influencing role with Ministers and across Government, and that Innovate UK should drive the UK's innovation strategy. Council also agreed that they should be operating as a Board with a Chair and CEO.

UKRI 2025

Isobel Stephen, Executive Director, Strategy and Governance presented UKRI's ambition and objectives for setting a five-year strategy. The developing strategy draws upon Government's emerging priorities, including the commitment to increase total R&D expenditure to 2.4% of GDP by 2027; the forthcoming Budget and Spending Review opportunities. Council were keen to take leadership of the innovation part of the strategy.

The formal minutes of this meeting will be approved at the Innovate UK Council meeting on Wednesday April 22nd at the Medicines Discovery Catapult, Alderley Edge, Cheshire.