

Leeds City Region Innovation Framework: Innovation for everyone



Our Vision

Our vision for innovation for the Leeds City Region is:

“A place that is globally recognised for developing an open, inclusive, thriving and coherent innovation ecosystem, where SMEs, budding entrepreneurs and individuals are inspired to innovate, and can easily navigate the support landscape and connect and collaborate with others to create new and better solutions for business growth and societal good.”

Priorities

- 1. Inclusive innovation – by and for everyone**
Create a more diverse, inclusive and open innovation ecosystem, with the guiding principle being ‘innovation - by and for everyone’.
- 2. A focus on Healthtech**
Prioritise sector specific innovation investment in Healthtech, building on existing strengths, assets and emerging opportunities. This will be used as proof of concept around targeted innovation support in Leeds City Region.
- 3. Innovation to meet net zero**
Support businesses in the region to develop and utilise innovation and innovative methods as a key contributor to achieving our net zero ambitions.
- 4. A strengthened relationship with UKRI**
Strengthen relationships with Innovate UK as the UK’s national innovation agency, whilst establishing a stronger relationship with UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) and key research councils.
- 5. Innovation finance availability**
Organise and work across partners to develop joined up innovation finance provision from pre-start to scale-up across Leeds City Region, to support innovators from much more diverse backgrounds.
- 6. A focus on innovative start-ups**
Focus targeted support on innovative start-ups, with a strong emphasis on developing a diverse and inclusive pipeline and solving societal challenges, particularly around health and climate challenges.
- 7. A new mission-based approach to innovation**
Adopt a mission-based approach to stimulating innovation.
- 8. A strengthened Higher Education Institute (HEI) and SME relationship**
Strengthen the untapped potential that exists between the Higher Education institutes (HEI) and SME base to drive business innovation in the region.
- 9. Investing in centres of excellence which match industry strengths**
Strengthen our innovation infrastructure by investing in new flagship centres of innovation excellence.
- 10. Creation of peer-to-peer innovation support networks**
Create an innovation peer-to-peer network to use the power and credibility of small businesses themselves to support other businesses.
- 11. Increasing adoption of new innovative practices**
Support the adoption of new innovative practices in SMEs and micro-businesses.
- 12. Connecting the landscape**
Support and facilitate connectivity across the innovation ecosystem.