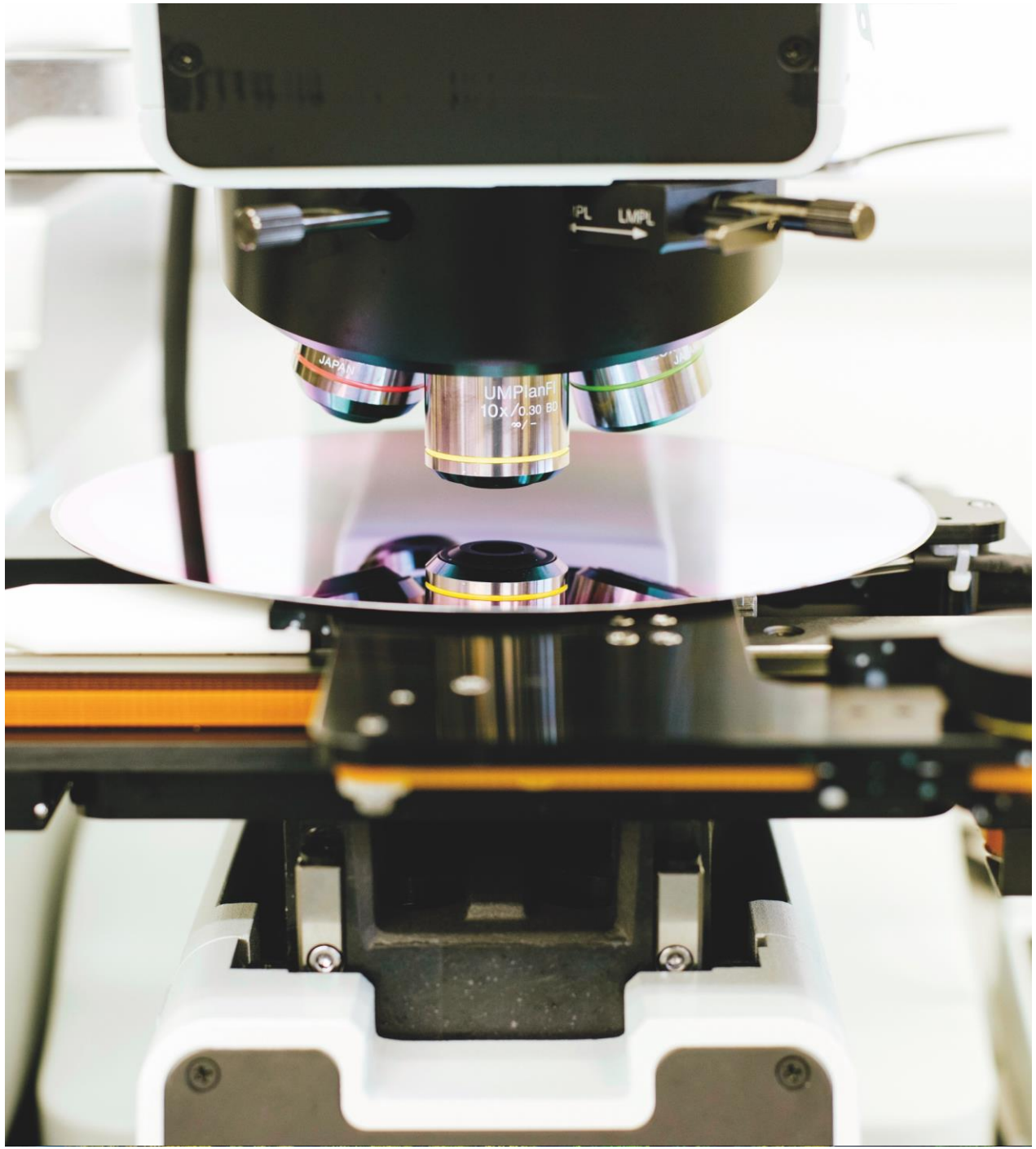
Welcome

Local Innovation Partnership Fund

Prifddinas Ranbarth Caerdydd | Cardiff Capital Region

UK Research and Innovation



Outline

Welcome

Kellie Beirne (CCR CEO)

Introduction to the Local Innovation Partnership Fund (LIPF)

Prof. Charlotte Deane (UKRI)

Applying the Fund to Cardiff Capital Region (CCR)

Dr Gavin Powell (CCR)

Testing the Strength of Our Region's Innovation Environment

Interactive Session

UKRI Delivery Partner

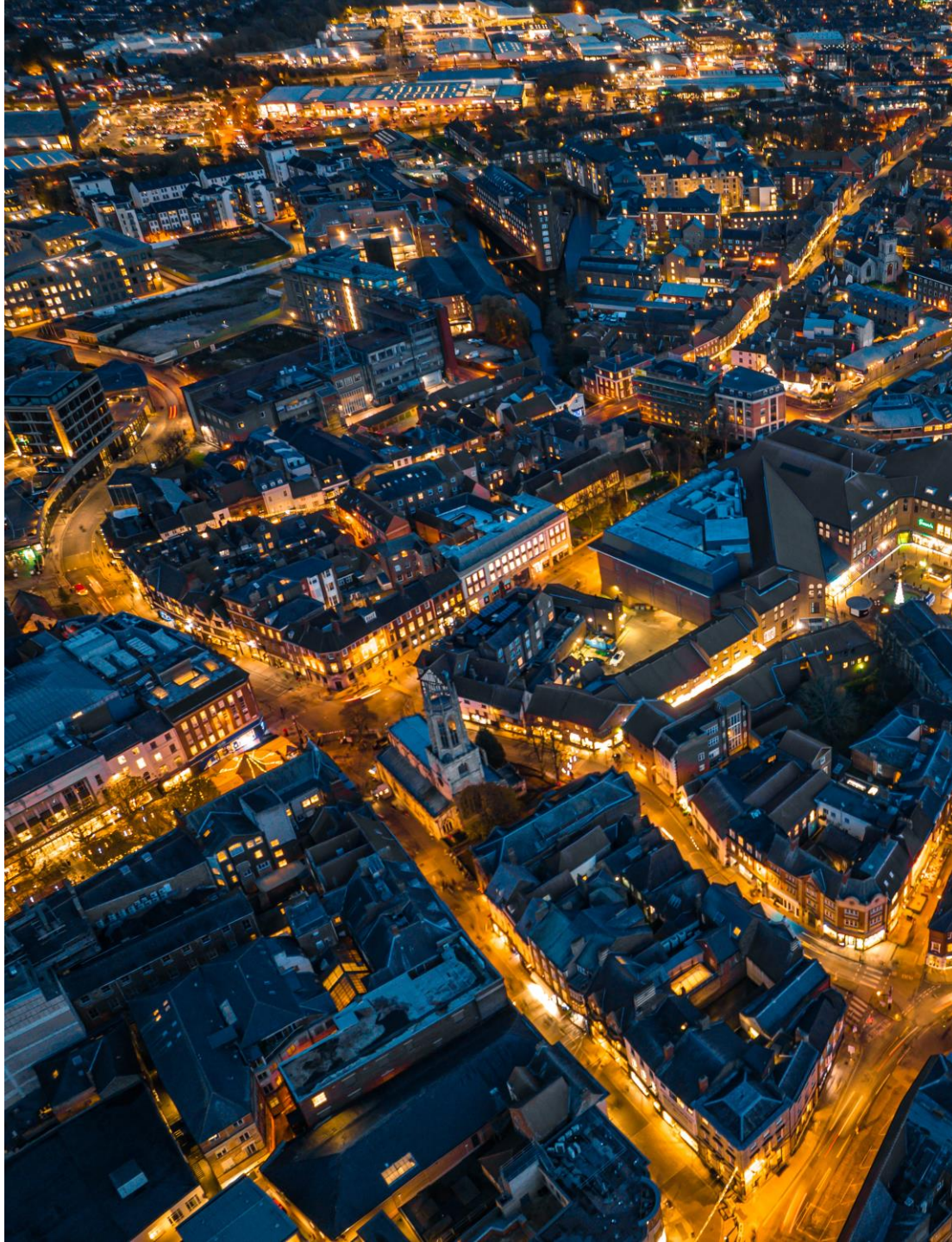
Prifddinas Ranbarth Caerdydd | Cardiff Capital Region

UKRI Local Innovation Partnerships Fund

Professor Charlotte Deane
Executive Chair, EPSRC

LIPF summary

- Up to £500m to unlock regional growth through high-potential innovation clusters
- Funding for triple helix partnerships made up of local governance, research organisations and business
- Supports local partnerships and locally empowered decision making
- Co-creation with UKRI to deliver targeted, high impact proposals that reflect regional strengths
- Builds on UKRI’s learning from other UKRI place-focused programmes, including the Strength in Places Fund, Innovation Accelerators and Launchpads



LIPF Objectives and Outcomes

- **Increase economic growth from innovation across the UK by:**
  - Contributing to national strategic priorities or UK strategic objectives such as the Industrial Strategy
  - Leveraging private investment

- **Increase innovation capacity and capability through:**
  - New products, services,
  - Spin-out companies
  - New or improved local R&D and innovation infrastructure and ecosystem
  - More high-quality jobs
  - Stronger talent base and supply chains
  - Strong local triple helix partnerships and networks
  - Alignment of innovation priorities and other local levers to support innovation

LIPF is about harnessing high-potential innovation clusters

Clusters should:

- Have a clear functional economic geography – can extend beyond administrative boundaries
- Reflect a localised concentration of innovation assets, firms and capabilities

The fund should:

- Build critical mass and deliver impact at scale in the clusters
- Increase international competitive advantage striving to drive inward investment and cluster growth
- Integrate existing investments and policy levers to maximise the benefits

Key messages

- This is **not a typical UKRI scheme**
- LIPF is about **focus**, not breadth
- Be **REALLY specific** about your regional USP and strengths
- LIPF is about delivering **growth, growth, growth** at scale
- Aim to achieve **international leadership**

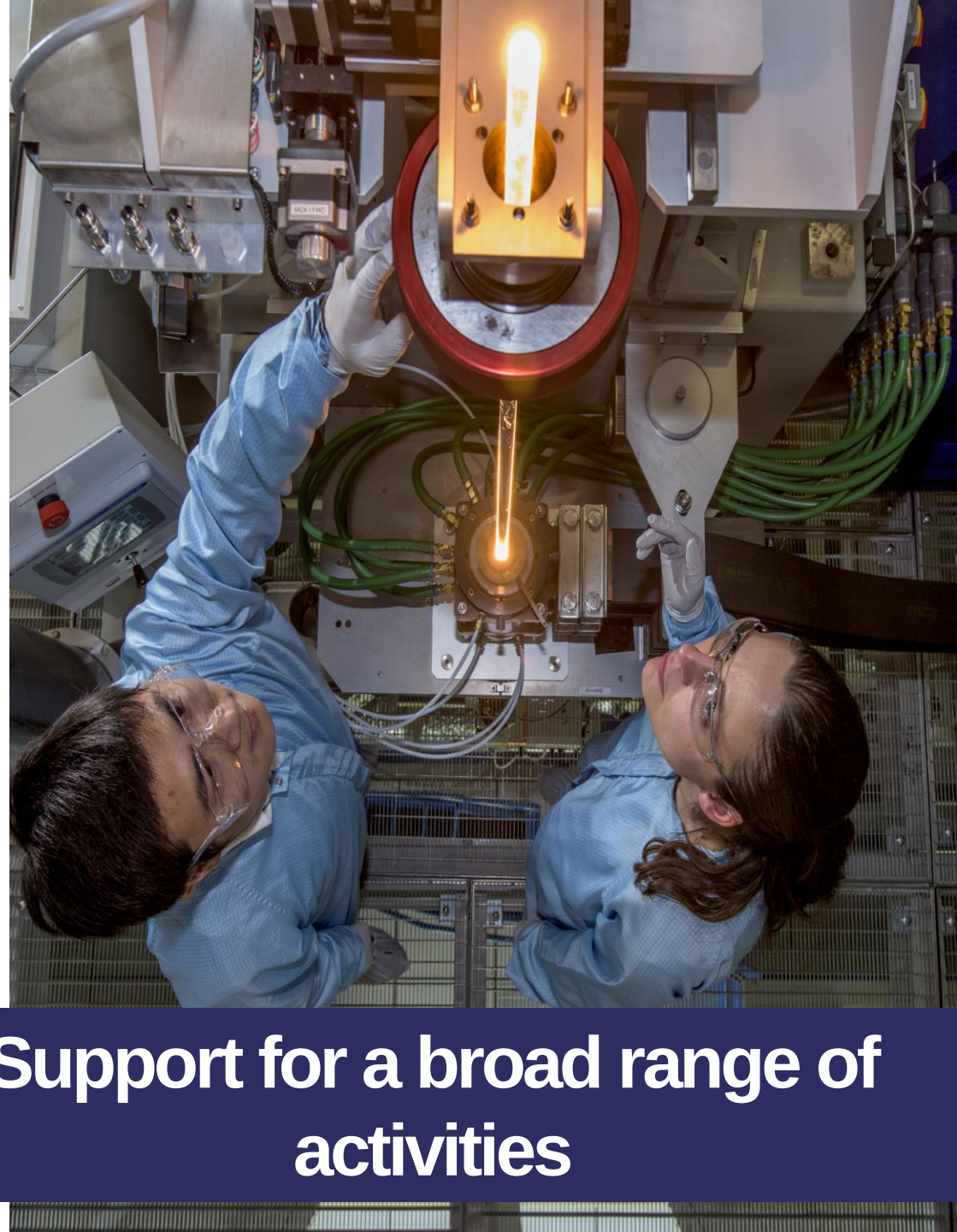
Where are we today and what does LIPF mean for Cardiff?

"Earmarked" - The region will secure the £30M fund subject to business case approval and checks

UKRI and CCR are working together to co-create their submission(s)

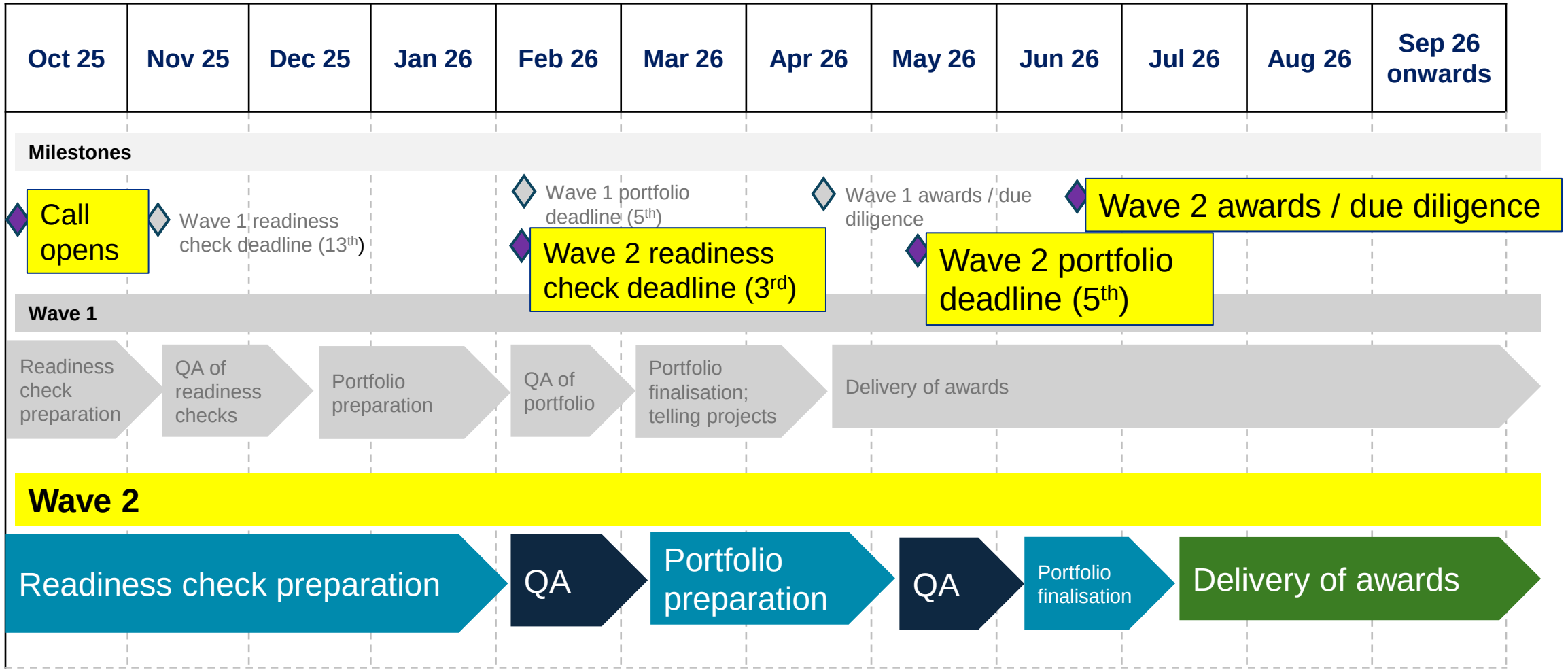
Today is part of that evidence gathering.

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
Research commercialisation	Technology transfer to industry; new product development; industry collaboration; securing patents, copyrights, or trademarks for research.
Adoption and diffusion of new technologies	Support for approaches that enable the adoption and diffusion of cutting-edge / cross-cutting technologies by businesses including enabling access to innovation assets and collaborative R&D with industry.
Business growth / development initiatives	Support for high growth SMEs and spinouts to boost company growth, including access to private finance to support local scaling.
Translational R&D	Collaborative R&D with strong industrial outcomes, including partnerships between businesses and the research base.
Cluster development, networking and leadership	Sharing and embedding best practice, including collaboration agreements which enable subject matter experts to share knowledge, develop skills and solutions, and attract investment.
Talent and skills development	Support for research fellowships and knowledge transfer partnerships which are strongly focused on building collaborative relationships between research organisations and businesses.
R&D infrastructure	Including investment into scale-up infrastructure and equipment critical for building capabilities of the innovation ecosystem. Proposals for new 'centres' will be evaluated on the basis of future sustainability
Knowledge exchange and R&I networking	Activities that strengthen and build relationships between stakeholders across research and innovation.
Seed corn funding	Operational or early-stage funding that build on existing cluster strengths, building resilience of the business base by supporting technology adoption and support growth of the cluster.
Access to / attracting overseas business and investment	Activities including collaborative research, business relocation, and growing local supply chains. Programme funding for non-UK businesses will only be eligible if a clear case is made for how it will anchor business activity in the UK with demonstrable local benefits.



Support for a broad range of activities

Timeline - earmarked places



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Questions?

Place@ukri.org

UKRI Delivery Partner

Prifddinas Ranbarth Caerdydd | Cardiff Capital Region

The Partnership

This is a **Local Innovation Partnership**

> Private Sector, Public Sector and Regional Academia as partners

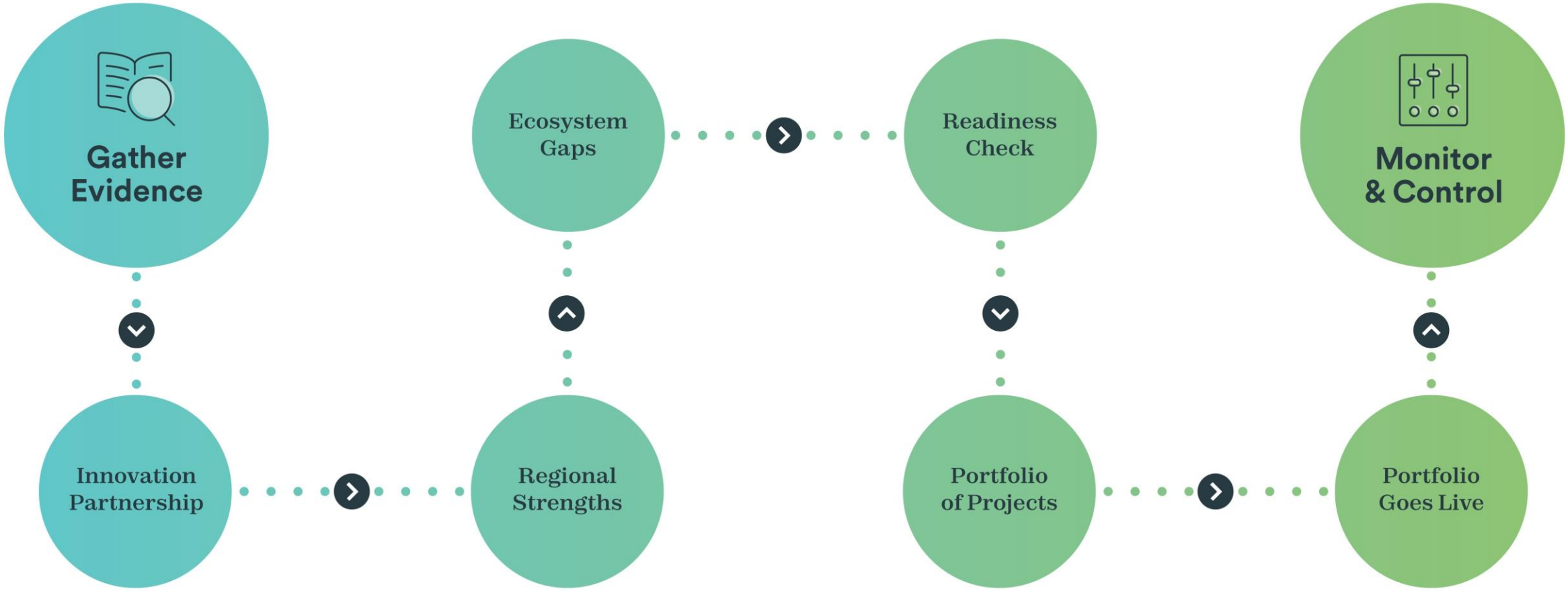
> Representing the complete research & innovation system for the region

Impact through **application** and **adoption**

Addressing all elements necessary to see innovation take place

> People
> Research & Innovation pathways
> Market and customer pull
> R&D push

The Steps


Gather Evidence
Innovation Partnership
Regional Strengths
Ecosystem Gaps
Readiness Check
Portfolio of Projects
Portfolio Goes Live
Monitor & Control

Sectoral Ecosystems – Strength & Weakness

= Ecosystem Gap & Innovation Enabler

= Ecosystem Gap & Innovation Blocker

Lead Body Role

- Gather evidence
- Form regional **Innovation Partnership** - governance
- Present evidence findings to Innovation Partnership
- Complete **Readiness Check**
- Bundle Portfolio Options
- Submit Portfolio to UKRI

Cluster Definition Process

Look for areas of strength (existing & emerging)

- *Business Activity*
- *Innovation Activity*
- *Partnering and Co-working*
- *Innovation Pathways*

Align to CCR, Welsh and UK Government policy (e.g. Industrial Strategy)

Present findings to Innovation Partnership

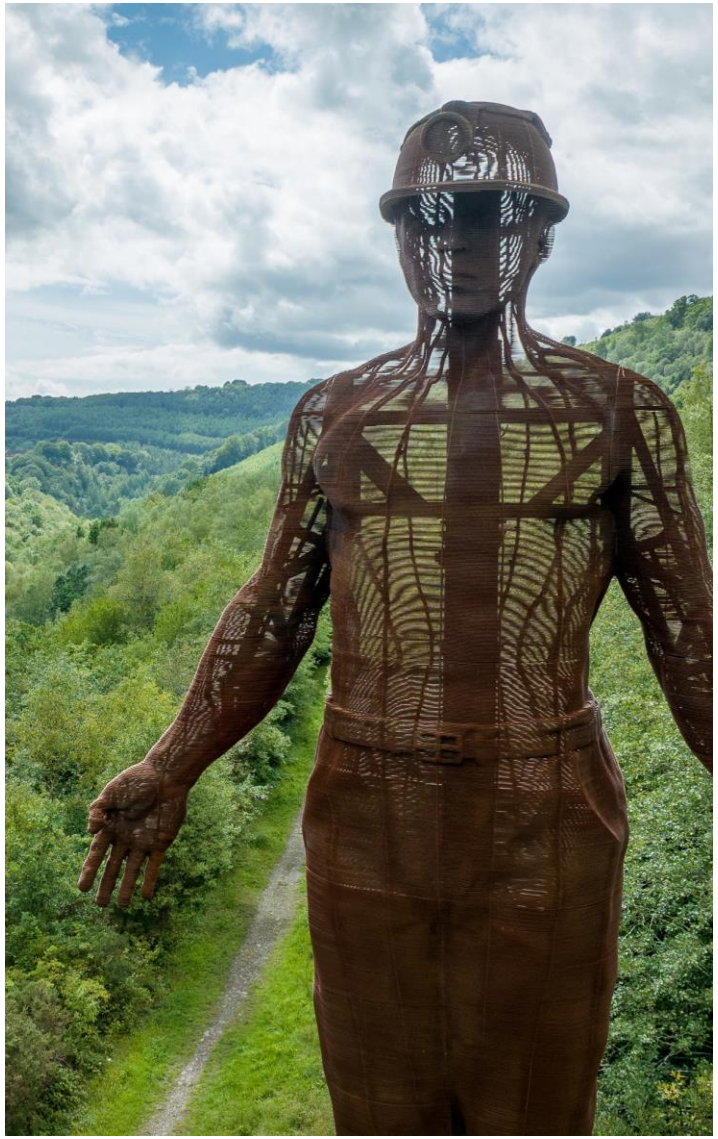
Propositions presented to UKRI for sign-off

Readiness Check Work

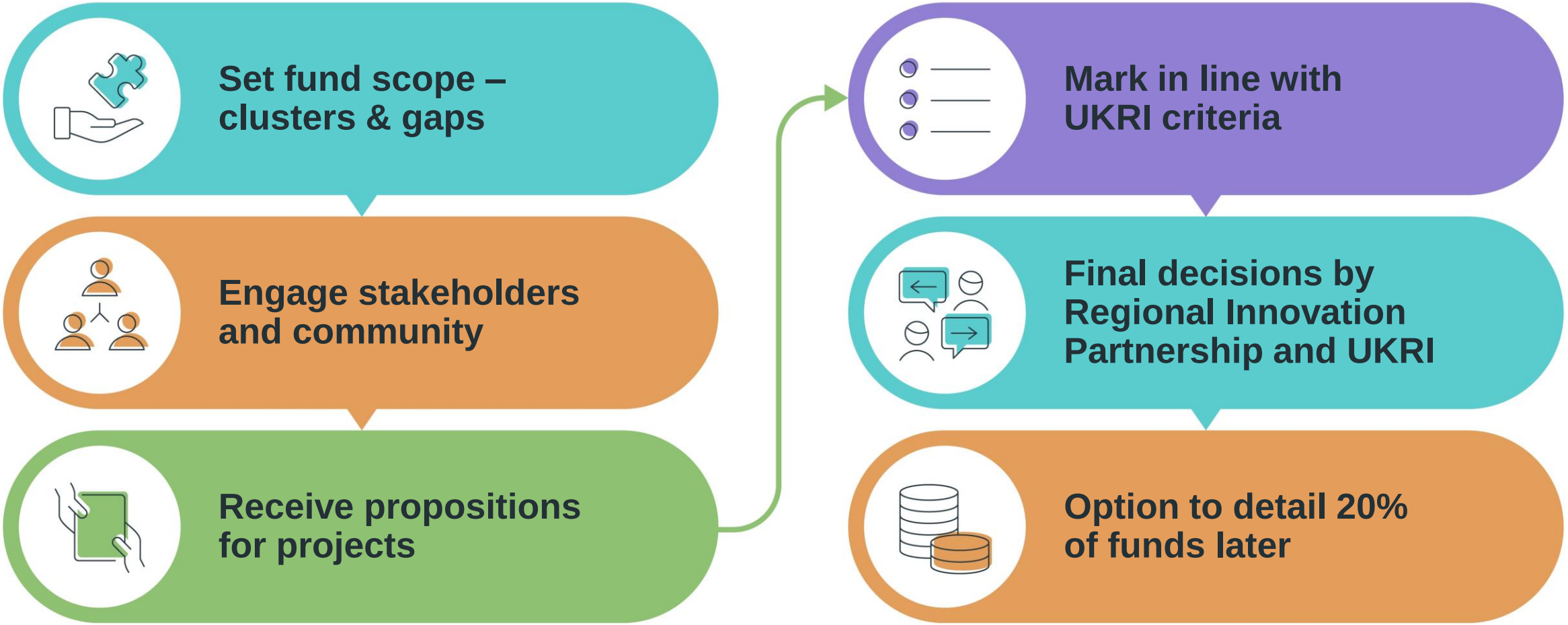
- Strategic vision – regional innovation strategy
- Evidence on strengths, research excellence and clusters
- Regional Innovation Partnership
  - Private sector
  - Public sector
  - Higher and Further education
- How they make decisions on:
  a) clusters b) portfolio
- Demonstration of previous portfolio delivery and existing capability

Timeline

- 2025 November – **Regional Innovation Partnership formed**
- 2025 December – **Clusters chosen**
- 2026 January – **Ecosystem gaps identified**
- 2026 February – **Readiness check submitted**
- 2026 February – **Project propositions received**
- 2026 March – **Projects propositions assessed**
- 2026 June – **Winners notified**
- 2026 July – **Projects go live**

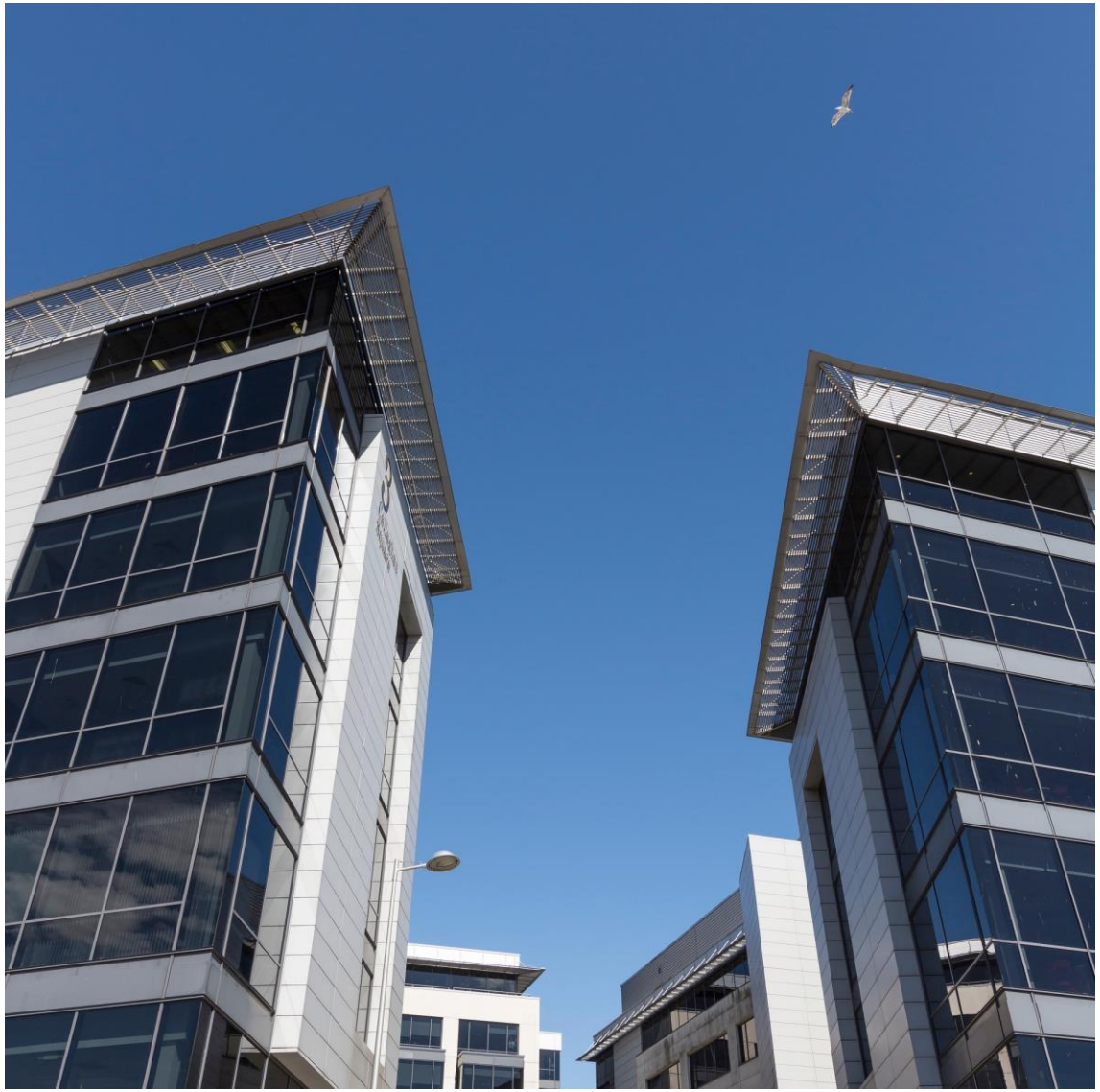


Cluster Definition Process



What success looks like

- LIPF takes the region on a journey
- Making it a better place for innovation
- Build on our research excellence
- Creating those seamless pathways
- To be a better place for ınnovators & Entrepreneurs
- Attractive and sticky for talent and businesses
- To be known as a great place to be for innovation



People-Centred Innovation Framework (LIPF)

Feature	What might good look like	Things like...
Access to workspace	Lots of options exist as landing environments for intrapreneurs and entrepreneurs.	Shared cluster labs, council innovation hubs, creative workspaces
Engagement with customers	Things exist that facilitate engagement between customers and solution providers.	Council buyer challenges, SME–anchor matchdays, demonstrator pilots
101 skills	Entrepreneurs and intrapreneurs have the basic skills they need to be successful.	Bootcamps, short courses, intrapreneur upskilling
Innovation awareness	Organisations and citizens appreciate the value of innovation and are good at innovating.	Regional innovation week, public storytelling campaigns
Access to professional services	Regional support exists that allows easy access to suitable professional services (e.g. accountancy, legal).	Regional “innovation navigator” or service marketplace
Access to funding	Researchers, entrepreneurs, intrapreneurs, companies, and organisations can get finance to support their innovation journey.	Co-investment fund, innovation finance platform
Making, buying, teaming & steering	A community exists where technology, products, services, and knowledge are shared and exchanged to help innovation happen.	Cross-cluster challenges, shared procurement platforms
Sharing	Knowledge sharing happens a lot across the community and with other communities and nations.	Peer-learning network, open data portal

People-Centred Innovation Framework (LIPF)

Access to technology	Intrapreneurs and entrepreneurs can easily access useful technology to enable innovation (e.g. open-access AI tools).	AI commons, open hardware labs.
Spin-out and Spin-in	Organisations and the region support and enable intrapreneurs to advance their ideas through spin-outs/spin-ins.	Internal venture studios, corporate venturing pilots.
IP, ownership and shares	IP sharing and usage help the whole community rather than just maximise profit.	Regional IP accord or shared licensing templates.
Mindset	Organisations encourage and make it easy for intrapreneurs to be creative, make, and do good new and different things within that organisation.	Intrapreneur recognition scheme, innovation charters.
Partnerships and co-working	The work from collaboration and partnerships is always applied and used.	Living labs, joint delivery teams.
Data	Data and evidence are made readily available to innovators and planners.	Regional data observatory, shared metrics dashboard.
Internal support	Organisations have internal mechanisms to encourage and support intrapreneurship and outgoing entrepreneurs.	Internal accelerators, staff innovation grants.
De-risking and advancing	High-value talent is identified and accelerated to greatness.	Regional “Scale Fellows” or “Future Leaders” programme.

Interactive Session

For each feature we want to measure **three dimensions**:

Existence

How well does this feature currently exist in your experience?

(1 = not at all, 5 = strong and accessible)

Effort to Improve

How much effort would it take to improve this feature?

(1 = easy, 5 = major structural change)

Importance

How important is this feature to regional innovation success?

(1 = marginal, 5 = critical)

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Final Task

“If you could fix one of these features tomorrow, which would unlock the most progress — and why?”

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Contact us

innovation@cardiffcapitalregion.gov.uk

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For regular updates on LIPF, please follow us on LinkedIn: