

BUSINESS, PARTNERSHIPS & PLACE COMMITTEE**14 January 2026****Present (Committee):**

Jane Robinson (Chair), Claire Adamson, James Annesley, Estelle Blanks, Rene Koglbauer, Jen Middleton, Boguslaw Obara, Rachel Pain, Luisa Wakeling, Christine Younger and Siân Breen (Secretary).

Paul Tyack - online

Attendees:

Karen Allenby – Item 2

Rachel Brown – Item 3

Apologies:

Helen Challis and Suzanne Nestor-Robson

MINUTES**1. MINUTES**

Minutes from the meeting of the University Engagement and Place Committee held on 6 November were approved as an accurate record.

2. UPDATE ON PARTNERSHIP REVIEW

Karen Allenby (Head of Partnerships) provided an update on the partnership review.

Noted:

1. Growing prevalence of partnership approach across the sector – need for consistent practice, with well-informed colleagues who understand the partner ecosystem.
2. There was discussion on the types of organisation in scope, inclusion of international considered. Need to be explicit about other education providers - unique dynamic which goes beyond the boundaries of the educational institution relationship. Agreed a broad scope, with partners considered on a case-by-case basis, would be the strongest approach.
3. Delivery of support required across the organisation, with an agile system of management that is both pro-active within, and responsive to the external environment.
4. Data-driven performance and evaluation framework – demonstrates how relationships generate more than income generation. Infrastructure rather than governance – how does the process work.
5. Several iterations of how to structure and communicate have been considered, settled on purpose-based model. Partnerships may involve activity across several purposes, although usually one will predominate. Purposes include:
 - DISCOVERY
 - TALENT: not specifically education – goes beyond curriculum to include CPD, development of staff, recruitment of graduates.
 - COMMUNITY: not part of research or core education, enable engagement with any other group to take place in a visible way. Committee considered whether terminology could cause confusion.
 - INVESTMENT
6. Options paper being delivered to UEB on 20 January – seeking endorsement of approach. Further consideration of how best to put the model into practice will include additional discussion with BPP, including input into oversight group.

7. March is ambitious launch date – aiming to have part of tool kit ready at the same time as introduction of Newcastle Innovations. To ensure proper input from colleagues, end of academic year launch may be more deliverable.

8. Committee requested comparison of other models to understand the intended approach. Opportunity within the committee for inter-disciplinary partnerships

3. UPDATE ON INVESTIBLE PROPOSITIONS

Rachel Brown (Senior Bid Development Manager) provided an update on investible propositions.

Noted:

1. Work began in July 2025, mapping opportunities within the Government Industrial Strategy and the NECA Growth Plan and aligning institutional strengths. Rapid progress has been made, with a test and learn approach.
2. Focus on economic growth and innovation projects, ensuring research is utilised in the most impactful way and aligns with Next Generation Newcastle. Brings together University activity and our external partnerships.
3. Initial list of 21 propositions represents early readiness for further refinement. Benefit demonstrated by proactive response to the LIPF opportunity – already in a position to influence conversations with NECA.
4. Phase 3 represents the requirements to push the work forward. Improved horizon scanning will better anticipate future funding opportunities, understand evolving international, national and local drivers. Core teams, composed of academic leads and Professional Services support will progress Beacons. Engagement across all faculties is important to ensure the approach is fully embedded across the University.
5. SAgE identified three areas of strength (where strong partnerships existed), each lead by a director - making liaison straightforward.
6. Access to key documents across the University needs to be simplified. Professional Services offer also needs to be lined up – for both IP and Partnerships.

4. CHAIR'S UPDATE

Received an update from the Chair of the committee:

4.1 Vice-Chancellor's update in Senate and Council papers: continued opportunity to showcase activity – any information to be shared with SB.

4.2 Discover Festival: 13 June 2026, Bob Allan coordinating. Provides opportunity to build further links with cultural partners.

4.3 Sustainability Action Plan: approved at UEB. Annual update at BPP. Connects into our Social Justice ambitions.

4.4 E&P awards: 30 April, in the Culture Lab.

4.5 Second INTO centre opened in Gateshead: credit to Paul Tyack and team for launch event.

4.6 NECA growth plan approved before Christmas: working closely on the local innovation partnership fund.

4.7 Next KEPOC, 12 February: looking at HEIF budget and policy support budget proposal.

4.8 Richard Brabner: appointed as Visiting Professor of Civic Engagement. Civic 2.0 is a national initiative, working in partnership with Birmingham, Queen Mary's University and the National Centre for Coordination of Public Engagement (NCCPE).

4.9 Visit from Gemma March, 20 January: Deputy CEO of Skills England and lead for Innovate UK battery challenge.

4.9.1 Social Justice Advisory Group appointed new co-chair: Maveen Pereira – background in community engagement with international development portfolio. Carrie Rosenthal was supporting but commencing maternity leave so will be covered by newly recruited Project Manager - Ben Rutherford.

5. IBPP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND KPIS

Estelle Blanks (Director of Business Development and Enterprise) provided an update on the IBPP implantation plan and KPIS

Noted:

1. IBPP transition plan is a work in progress that represents an evolving context. Full plan is very detailed - reflects lots of different plans. Will need to be a lot more strategic and mission driven with activities that align with our partner needs and government drivers.
2. Government's Industrial Strategy places universities at the heart of economic growth - defined as building an economy that grows, creates wealth and generates opportunities for all, across regions and communities.
3. HEIF provides a key resource and its' direction of travel is very clear, including - commercialising technologies that are mission led and align with industrial strategy. Creates opportunities that can be leveraged in other funding and grow overall.
4. Vision and Aims relevant in context of delivery plan.
5. Drive to make more of what we do more visible. Investment in people and activities and impact we have on businesses.

6. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

Jane Robinson presented items for discussion at future meetings.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Members of the committee to note the times of BPP for the remainder of the academic year 2025-26:

- Wednesday 4 March 2026 – 10.00-11.30
- Wednesday 13 May 2026 – 09.00-12.00
- Thursday 9 July 2026 – 10.00-11.30