Dynamo Board Meeting Notes

Date & Time: 13th February, 16.30 – 17.30
Location: University of Sunderland, David Goldman Informatics Centre, St Peter's Campus, SR6 0DD

Attendees:
Charlie Hoult, David Carroll, Mike O'Brien, Stuart Lynn, Alan English, Chris Wade, Graeme Fletcher, Allan King, Bob Paton, Alastair Irons, Graham Jordan, Jen Hartley, Giselle Stewart

Secretariat:
Sarah Thackray, Clare Nicholson

Apologies: Lindsay Phillips, Mark Larsen, Simon Roberson, Anne MacDonald, Matt Oakley, Keith Dickson, Anthony McMenzie, Alison Shaw, Phil Jackman, Deni Chambers**,** Neil Hemming, John Hunt, Richard Waterhouse, Rebecca Strachan, Janet Ross

Board Updates

- Welcome to Allan King, covering for Mark Larsen. Chris Wade and Graeme Fletcher (cover for Stu Lynn when away travelling)
- New board member – Alison Shaw UTC

- ➢ Digital Alliance
  - ➢ Survey following 11 Jan event has been sent to attendees and interested parties to capture further feedback on sector priorities and taking DA forward. Please complete if not done so already!

Notes:

In January a meeting was held with lots of different bodies. 30 people. Keen to get on board with a big tent approach for all tech sector co-ordination and growth. To build a bigger voice for the north east. Get support from NELEP – 7 local authorities. Tees Valley LEP another 5 local authorities. Do we play together as a north east wider group? Also how does Dynamo input tech sector strategy to North of Tyne devolution team (Northumberland, Newcastle and North Tyneside).

Jen – new mayor end of the year for North of the Tyne devolution group. March 2018 money coming through. Broad ask in the devolution bid: digital skills, tech & digital sector growth, cyber. 'Digital' mayor for the area has been discussed. Various Dynamo team working on 'oven-ready' projects for when devolution is approved. They will have a lot of funds available in the first year when it comes through.

Funding coming in to support Anne Macdonald's role as coordinator of Dynamo BIM/Build projects?

- ➢ Digital Alliance meeting with LEP on 14th Feb to discuss potential funding support for Digital Alliance (ERDF bid) Anne to provide further updates when available.

Notes:

£16m innovation pot for Newcastle to do funding match. Dynamo team is working on a potential bid for £500k per year x 3 years (to create a £1.5m project overall), raising £250k from the private sector/partners that the

funds can match 50/50 against ERDF grants to make £500k pa. Incl Councils, Unis, foundations, private sector. Dynamo surplus. The idea would be to create 5 or 6 posts so that Dynamo 'engagement managers' could operate as specialists in different key clusters for the region. Research on the strongest clusters – BIM, Cyber, Shared service centres, tax & accounting, advanced manufacturing (supply chain for Nissan, siemens, hitachi). Job spec – co-ordinate all the players, help 'buy local', input on skills agenda, working with Unis on innovation, spotlight on these clusters of excellence in the region and beyond.

Another idea from Dynamo is to work towards bidding for a National Centre of Excellence for BIM – as part of devo bid. Northumbria Uni already has its BIM Academy – perhaps there is a way to grow the significance of Northumbria's work in this area and attract national funds, collaboration with RIBA's NBS, Viewpoint Software, Space Group and other players in the BIM and 'Connected Construction' field? Some 2000 people in the region in BIM. Working internationally – RIBA, BIM Academy @ Northumbria Uni and others.

Finance

- Overview and update

Notes:

See financial report comparing 2015 and 2016 performance.

Reinvestment plan for surplus – around clusters. Hire people to co-ordinate the clusters. Anne MacDonald is a specialist in BIM sector and has been hired on a consultant basis – 3 days per week. 2 months in. Find more funding for herself – in progress.

Hypothesis to see if this group of 15 companies in BIM and disparate sector can come together and Dynamo's support can provide added value as a middle person/broker. Attract potential funding from Future Cities Catapult and others.

Workstreams

BIM
- Events attended include BIM Show Live 1 and 2 Feb (excellent event, great networking opportunity, increased knowledge of sector) and Digital Sector Business Breakfast 31 Jan (Newcastle City Council).
- BIM Think Tank 16th Feb @ NBS – fully booked – 22 attendees confirmed. Working with Becky at Northumbria and BeaconHouse Events. Workshop will focus on BIM sector analysis, needs of a BIM cluster, comms and the role of Dynamo for BIM
- Meetings held with key stakeholders in region including Rob Charlton (Space), Steve Spark (Viewpoint), Mark Tewdwr-Jones (Newcastle City Futures) and Creative Fuse Team (Eric Cross, Jason Leggett). Further meetings scheduled include KyKloud (Ed Bartlett) and BIM regions North East (John Neilson).
- Gathering intelligence on BIM businesses in North East –specialisms, headcount, turnover, growth etc.
- Met with Gren Irving to understand how advanced manufacturing work stream progressing.
- Potential financial support from Sunderland Software City for BIM sector analysis work.

Cyber

Notes:

<u>Autumn event</u>

Basic outline – CyberFest. Attract the Director of GCHQ. CEO, national cyber security centre. Not a conference. Skills and training focused. Hacks.

Baroness Neville Rolfe?
Graham Cluny

Target audience: kids and teachers, careers angle. Hosted at Sunderland Uni. Target 30 schools in David Goldman/quad. September 2017. 250 people.

Aim of the event:
Get more kids into Comp-sci at GCSE level. Year 8, year 11 and sixth form to graduates. Hook for kids – drone, snapchat etc.

David is looking at a previous event model run by Uni of Gloucester – with GCHQ. David will talk to them and take learnings away.

UTC – could run an annual event with them.

Route for apprenticeship and non trad routes to train in cyber. Not always school and uni.

David meeting with North of Tyne authorities on 14th Feb.

<u>Other updates:</u>

Animations:
Approval on 6 animations on cyber essentials – joint funding (XQ) and police. Geordie profile raiser. Aimed at SMEs to educate. Distribute by any national cyber security centre.

Disseminate through Sage channels to SMEs – Chris Wade. Lyndsey Britton – at Campus north may send it out. Schools north east – need a strategic relationship. Giselle and Bob to take forward.

David requesting support to disseminate through schools.

Cyber Day:
29th March - Cyber Day – health sciences network. Targeted at NHS CIO and CCIOs in the region.

Skills

Notes:

1) UTC – Lord Nash met with Bob Paton, Chi Onwarua and Guy Opperman. 2 sites put forward. WHSmith site and Stephenson quarter. (Board not interested in WHSmith site). Lord Nash has decided to back Stephenson quarter site.

Now a few priorities for the UTC: Join the multi-academy trust, appoint a retired head on board of governors and a good principle to be appointed. Note: the UTC can allow children under age 14 onto the site. Planning permission has been put in. April sign off with Lord Nash. Developer estimates 12 months. To be finished by summer 2018. Most expensive built UTC outside of London.

Our Consultation is now open and it is vital for us to achieve numerous positive respondents;

Momentum will take off if everyone gets behind it now; they can help by pushing out a strong request to everyone they know to fill in the 2 minute questionnaire on the website (nefuturesutc.co.uk), by filling it in themselves and by responding, when we send it over the next few days, to the business questionnaire.

The North East digital and IT community can gather around this initiative and make a massive difference with it - providing concrete evidence of proactive and positive strategy to inward investors, existing business and - crucially – parents

Action: Dynamo team to retweet and ask board and staff to circulate and parents to complete. Add to Feb newsletter. Giselle to share stats to put into next newsletter.

Work out how to promote to parents and kids. Ambassador programme for the region. Promote through Sunderland cyber event.

2) More code clubs needed. Meeting with Bob, Alastair, Northumbria Uni and Ncl College. They are hoping to final year students to incorporate a module to deliver a code club or teach the teachers.

3) Apprentice hub – continuing to work with Baltic Training.

4) Digital school house – training the teachers so they can use the resources around them. Based on play. The aim is to get a few in the north east, one already running in Sunderland. Trying to get one in Ponteland, and one in Newcastle. Hub of best practice across all subjects. Reece engineering supportive. Pitching for benefactors money. It's taught in school. Then becomes a network of schools. Schools have to apply. After summer 2017 could we do something later this year. Not based on tech available to schools.

Actions:
Chris Wade – will connect with West Denton school to tell them about the initiative.
Engie – may have funding available. Head of innovation programme lady – Alan English to connect Giselle.

Events

DynamoNets
- **13th February** – hosted by Sunderland University – Cyber
- **13th March –** hosted by Newcastle University – NISDI
- **3rd April** – BT??
- **8th May –** Ryder Architecture **–** topic TBC

Accenture – offered to host a DynamoNet in April or July (July would be best – w/c 10th). Innovation workshop. Will contact Allan.

The DynamoNet would include a showcase of their facility including the Nano lab, hothouse team, ideation (ideas generation zone) which is opening in March this year.

Think Tank, Thurs 16th Feb
Hosted by NBS. 22 attendees. Led by Anne and Becky. BIM theme

Board Dinner 2017
Confirmed for Thursday 23rd March 2017 at BALTIC. KPMG & Mincoffs confirmed as sponsors. 49 booked to date including 2 x sponsor tables. Potential for a Dynamo table of 10.

Dynamo 17
Monday 3rd July. Hosted by Durham University. Possible Speakers dinner on the night of the conference. Content outline to be circulated shortly.

==Actions:==
Sarah to circulate outline programme themes. And sponsor pack to be shared asap.
Programme – finance and tax theme – perhaps include Deloitte – Jen to intro to Stephen Hall.
Parking: Sarah to address the issue with Phil and the Uni. Parking Fairy? Park & Ride.

Membership

- New members:
  > MJC Advanced Consulting Ltd
  >Mesma Limited
  >MADrive Computing Ltd.

- Lost members:
  >Potentially losing MTC Training

- Renewal invoices all sent

AOB

DevAcademy
I wondered if there was the possibility of a collaboration between Dynamo and DevAcademy for an event? I was at a women in tech event and believe that whilst the right questions were asked, the wrong crowd were there. Do Dynamo have plans for a women in tech think tank? From attending previous think tanks, I know Dynamo members are representatives of both industry, education and those in-between, which are the right people to start bringing about change or at least take positive steps towards it. I'd very much like to discuss the possibility of a think tank for this.

Notes:

Board agree it'd be a good idea.

Graham- Digital Leaders women in tech session. Wrong that there wasn't mixed audience. Women in Tech session should have an audience of men and women – good mix. Could team up with Women in Tech leaders course and DevAcademy. Alan English is mentoring some of the course participants.

Chris Wade said Jacqueline may be able to lend her voice to the Women in tech session/promo.

Clare / Sarah to follow up with potential people to host/curate this session and invitation list

AOB (new):

International women's day – 8th March – is Dynamo doing anything? Allan King asked. Maybe we launch our women in tech session on that day?

Clare to follow up on with DevAcademy, Allan King, Graham Jordan…

Date of next meeting:
Monday 13th March 4.30pm at Newcastle University