



Centre for Innovation
Policy Research

Canolfan Arloesi
Ymchwil Polisi

Developing Innovation Policy: Some Reflections from Wales

Professor Rick Delbridge

Co-convenor of the Centre for Innovation Policy Research
Cardiff University

Scottish Innovation Policy, 7 November 2022, Glasgow



Developing Innovation Policy in Wales

- Report for Innovation Advisory Council for Wales on innovation policy based on 50+ interviews
- Learned Society of Wales roundtables
 - Innovation strategies for Wales
 - University cooperation and collaboration in innovation strategy: Lessons from small nations
 - The role of science parks in innovation strategies
 - Innovation commons and the ‘raw ingredients’ of innovation
 - Civic Mission and Innovation
- Partnership with the Cardiff Capital Region to design and deliver a challenge fund

Scoping the Future of Innovation Policy in Wales

- **Recommendation 1:** A new innovation strategy for Wales needs to be founded on a compelling and inclusive narrative that can act as a catalyst for activity, promoting the innovation agenda and the nation
- **Recommendation 2:** Future innovation policy should do more to encourage universities to develop their translational research activities to bridge the gap between research and innovation in Wales



Scoping the Future of Innovation Policy in Wales

- **Recommendation 3:** A new innovation strategy must be accompanied by investment in the skills, capabilities and resources needed to support innovation. This should include a suite of innovation support programmes for SMEs, increased availability of venture capital, and investments in unlocking data resources and enabling digital technologies
- **Recommendation 4:** The new innovation strategy should support the development of greater capacity for mission-orientated innovation that tackles societal challenges, thereby engaging the public, private and civic sectors, leveraging public procurement and proactively shaping markets



Scoping the Future of Innovation Policy in Wales

- **Recommendation 5:** The innovation policy landscape is becoming more complex, within the UK and within Wales, and Welsh Government will need to build on the Regional Investment for Wales Steering Group to coordinate place-based investment plans
- **Recommendation 6:** Innovation has a significant role to play in the Sixth Senedd's immediate tasks of recovery and reconstruction and in meeting the longer-term goals of fashioning a greener, fairer and more innovative Wales and therefore innovation policy agenda should be brought into the centre of Welsh Government, championed at Cabinet level and better integrated across the civil service



‘Big picture’ considerations

- Funding and leadership of innovation in the Sixth Senedd; a coherent and compelling narrative
- An innovation commons approach to investing in skills, capabilities, open data and resources
- Increased capacity for challenge-oriented innovation and private/public/HEI partnerships
- Tailored and specific policy interventions to create sectoral- and place-based opportunities
- Mechanisms for institutional and cultural change? (e.g. National Innovation Body?)



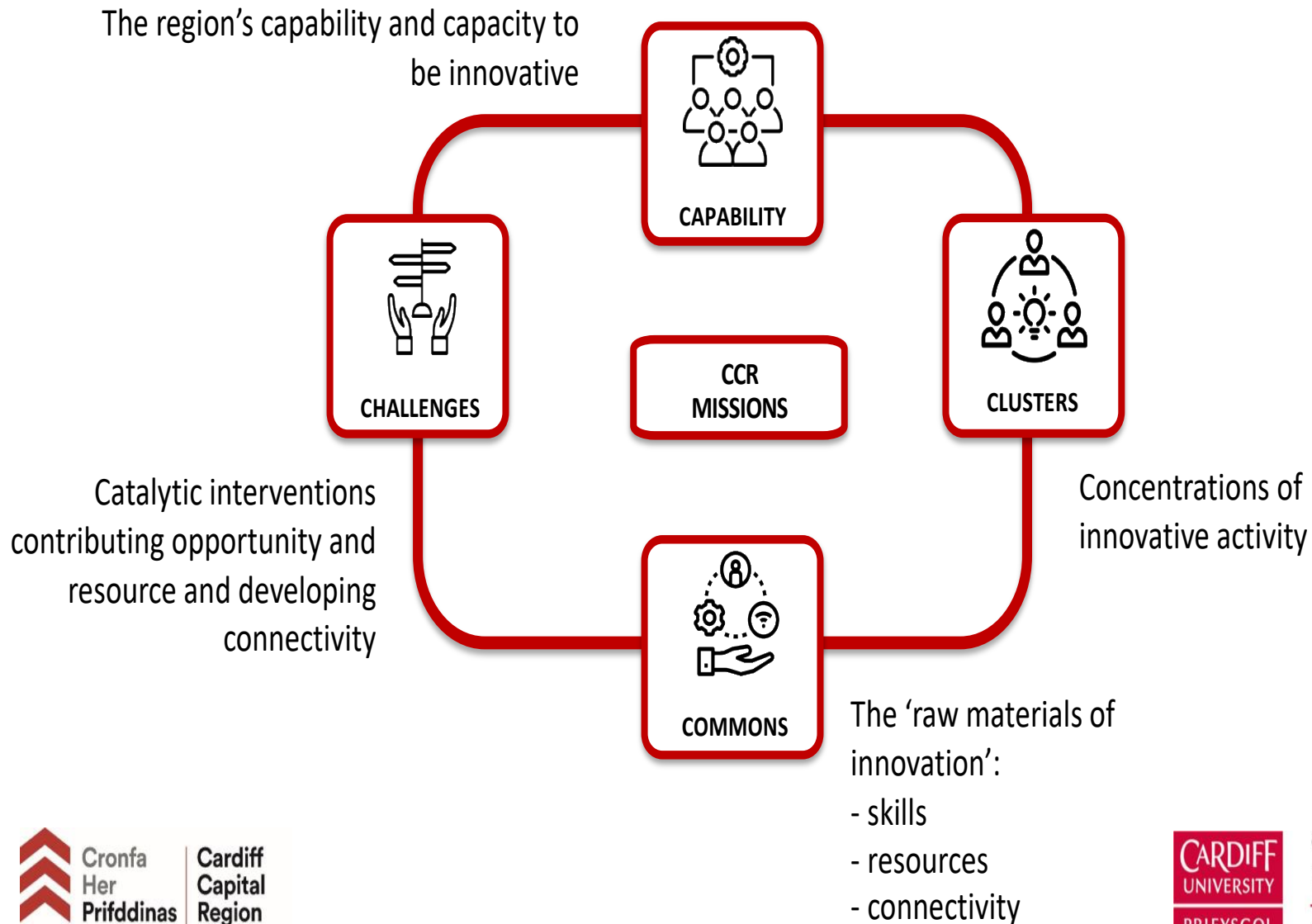
CCR Challenge Programme

£10m
CCR Challenge Fund

£5.6m
Capacity Building Innovative Future Services
(InFuSe)

- 3.5 year programme, new form of collective action between public/ private/university to integrate social challenges into R&I
- Stimulate economic benefits for the region and local wealth building, in part a response to the pandemic
- Role for public sector in convening around societal challenges
- Produce radical improvements in service delivery
- Innovation in Procurement and Procurement of Innovation
- Creation of new markets & commercialisation of new products and services
- Building capabilities and nurturing an innovation 'ecosystem'

The 4 Cs of Innovation Policy in the CCR



Concluding comments

- Complex political context with regional economic areas developing through city/growth deals
- Challenges of multilevel polity in accessing and coordinating R&I funds
- Place-based and inclusive approach to innovation centred on challenges and 'micro-missions' plus tailored cluster interventions
- Incorporation of the innovation commons and regional capability into strategy development
- Better collaboration, coordination and a compelling narrative all crucial
- New institutional developments?

Many thanks

Information on the LSW roundtables and our response to the Welsh Government Innovation Strategy consultation

<https://www.learnedsociety.wales/our-publications/innovation-strategies-for-wales/>

Delbridge, Henderson & Morgan, *Scoping the Future of Innovation Policy in Wales*, Centre for Innovation Policy Research, 2021

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/innovation/latest-iacw>

Contact:

delbridger@cardiff.ac.uk



Centre for Innovation
Policy Research

Canolfan Arloesi
Ymchwil Polisi