

Innovation Evidence Review

Billing, Chloe

License:

Creative Commons: Attribution-NonCommercial (CC BY-NC)

Document Version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Citation for published version (Harvard):

Billing, C 2024, *Innovation Evidence Review: Local Policy Innovation Partnership (LPIP)*. The Local Policy Innovation Partnership Hub. <<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/city-redi/lpiphub/reports/innovation-evidence-review>>

[Link to publication on Research at Birmingham portal](#)

General rights

Unless a licence is specified above, all rights (including copyright and moral rights) in this document are retained by the authors and/or the copyright holders. The express permission of the copyright holder must be obtained for any use of this material other than for purposes permitted by law.

- Users may freely distribute the URL that is used to identify this publication.
- Users may download and/or print one copy of the publication from the University of Birmingham research portal for the purpose of private study or non-commercial research.
- User may use extracts from the document in line with the concept of 'fair dealing' under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (?)
- Users may not further distribute the material nor use it for the purposes of commercial gain.

Where a licence is displayed above, please note the terms and conditions of the licence govern your use of this document.

When citing, please reference the published version.

Take down policy

While the University of Birmingham exercises care and attention in making items available there are rare occasions when an item has been uploaded in error or has been deemed to be commercially or otherwise sensitive.

If you believe that this is the case for this document, please contact UBIRA@lists.bham.ac.uk providing details and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate.

Evidence Review - Innovation Policy Briefing – October 2024

Local Policy Innovation Partnerships Hub

This review, by Dr Chloe Billing, is part of a series produced by the Local Policy Innovation Programme (LPIP) Hub at City-REDI at the University of Birmingham, offering a state-of-play on the current policy landscapes and debates relating to effective place-based partnerships in innovation, one of the seven primary themes of the Local Policy Innovation Programme, as determined by UKRI. The aim of the review is to identify key questions, offer a 'state-of-the-art' picture of current academic and policy literature, and consider key themes and strands of research for further investigation in innovation policy throughout the LPIP programme. The review is designed to help those in the Local Partnerships (LPs) better understand how to design effective place-based interventions that foster innovation, and to understand the common challenges and pitfalls to effective partnership working in innovation contexts, as well as examples of good practice to minimise risk. The key findings emerging from this review on innovation policies for local places, are as follows:



Key Finding: Importance of Innovation and Technology Policies

Innovation, defined as transforming ideas into value, is essential for productivity and prosperity. Both technology push and demand-pull policies are necessary to build capacity, capability, and confidence in innovation.



Key takeaway

A strong, balanced innovation policy incorporating both technology push and demand-pull approaches can improve lives, services, and businesses across the UK, fostering a fairer, healthier, and more resilient society by supporting local ecosystems and addressing regional needs.



Key Finding: Empowering Local Leaders and Research Funding

Several sources emphasise the importance of devolving more autonomy and decision-making power to local leaders, including increased local influence over national R&D spending and targeted incentives for local research priorities.



Key takeaway

Decentralising some national funding and policy controls to relevant scales can enhance local innovation and focus research on

community-specific challenges, but careful consideration is needed to determine the appropriate geographical scale for different types of policies.



Key Finding: Collaboration, Partnerships, and Skills Development

There is a consistent focus on the importance of collaboration between government, businesses, academia, and other stakeholders within regions to drive innovation ecosystems. This includes developing local STEM skills and aligning training programmes with the talent needs of innovative companies.



Key takeaway

Partnerships can enhance knowledge sharing and create more robust, interconnected innovation ecosystems. Connecting innovation policies with broader skills policies can create a more robust local talent pipeline, supporting the growth of innovative industries.



Key Finding: Place-based Approaches and Cluster Development

Innovation policies are increasingly shifting towards cooperative, multi-actor, and more 'place-based' approaches, with a focus on supporting innovation clusters.



Key takeaway

Supporting cluster growth is viewed as an impactful local innovation policy, requiring frameworks to assess growth potential and learn from successful cases. This approach can help tailor innovation strategies to local strengths and needs.



Key Finding: Evidence-Based and Experimental Policies

There are calls for more evidence-based and experimental approaches to designing local innovation policies, including rigorous evaluation and regular benchmarking.



Key takeaway

Implementing rigorous evaluation methods and regular benchmarking of local innovation dynamics can help track progress, inform targeted policies, and identify emerging innovative places, leading to more effective and adaptable innovation strategies.