

HEALTH TECH ALLIANCE

The Life Sciences Sector Deal

Background

The [Life Sciences 'Sector Deal'](#) is a series of commitments and investments from both Government and industry, that intends to take forward the vision that was set out in the [Life Sciences Industrial Strategy](#). The Life Sciences Industrial Strategy, led by Professor Sir John Bell and published by the Office of Life Sciences, set out several recommendations to drive growth and productivity within the UK's life sciences sector.

The Government note that the announcements made in the Sector Deal are "just the beginning" with a wider pledge to "deepen the collaboration" between partners in the months and years ahead.

Key Points

Implementation of the Accelerated Access Review (AAR)

The Sector Deal reaffirms the Government's commitment to implementing the AAR and £86m of government funding. Whilst it does not announce any new AAR-related measures it:

- States that the Accelerated Access Collaborative will 'facilitate bespoke partnerships between the NHS and the life sciences industry',
- Notes that "industry will play a key role" in the Collaborative.
- Notes that NHS England is strengthening its commercial capability to develop mutually beneficial commercial deals (via a new Strategic Commercial Unit).
- Funding has been committed to support innovators and the NHS locally as part of Government's response, as well as a commitment to the creation of digital health catalyst to support SMEs partnering with the NHS

The deal also refers to the work of Academic Health Science Networks, stating that they will ensure innovators can access support and a new scheme will support SME businesses in developing an effective evidence base for their products.

Industry Commitments

- A major Johnson & Johnson medical devices collaboration has begun in east London around orthopaedic services. The agreement focuses on improving performance.
- Johnson & Johnson Managed Services have partnered with Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust to deliver an Orthopaedics Centre of Excellence. The Sector Deal states that the partnership will also focus on streamlining the supply chain to create efficiency and reduce costs, and that 'redesigning patient pathways and introducing innovative new technology' would benefit patient experiences.
- Smith & Nephew is developing a new digital tool for wound care in community trusts. The company estimates that the programme will drive significant improvements in patient outcomes.

Research

- The sector deal pledges to deliver the vision for the Health Advanced Research Programme (HARP), as proposed in the Life Sciences Industrial Strategy. The proposed programme will see industries, charities, the NHS, universities and the government collaborating on long term healthcare projects.

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The government's approach to delivering this programme will be laid out in future phases of the sector deal.

- Work will begin to develop a number of regional, interoperable Digital Innovation Hubs which support the use of patient data for research purposes. They will create controlled environments for real-world clinical studies and evaluation of new innovations.

Regional Commitments

The Sector Deal outlines initial plans to implement a regional approach by working with key clusters and the devolved administrations. Immediate actions include:

- a £350m investment programme in the Leeds City Region to 'build on the opportunities in this leading medtech hub'
- an Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Research Centre and a Centre of Child Health and Technology in Sheffield
- a £215m housing deal around Oxford, a £5m commitment to develop proposals for Cambridge South station and a construction of the expressway between the two cities (as laid out in the Roads Investment Strategy)

Implementation

Sector Deal Implementation Plan

The document sets out the following forthcoming Sector Deal activities:

- December 2017: Phase one of the Life Sciences Sector Deal announced
- January 2018: Sector Deal Oversight Board's first meeting
- January 2018: Implementation plan for the Sector Deal agreed by board
- April 2018: Projects allocated funding under Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (Wave 1) begin
- December 2018: Annual Review of the Sector Deal

Governance

Oversight of the Sector Deal will be led by an Implementation board, its membership being made up of a mix of policy officials and senior industry representatives. Details of membership will be announced ahead of the first meeting. In addition:

- The Implementation Board will be supported by sub-groups to oversee each component of the deal. These sub-groups will be responsible for monitoring and challenging the delivery of joint work programmes.
- An early role for the Implementation Board will be to agree implementation plans for each section of the Deal, including agreed success metrics.
- The Board is responsible for reporting to the government on delivery at regular intervals.