

Future Fashion Factory Update

Date: 17th January 2022

Report of: Head of Economic Policy

Report to: The Consultative Meeting of Members of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- This report introduces the work of the Future Fashion Factory and how its programmes support the fashion and textile industry to help address the climate emergency. Future Fashion Factory is part of the Creative Industries Cluster Programme, funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council and part of the Industrial Strategy. In 2018, Leeds City Council committed to supporting the University of Leeds led Future Fashion Factory (FFF) 5-year programme to support innovation in the UK fashion and textiles industry. Leeds City Council's Economic Policy Team work closely with Yorkshire Textiles as part of this work.
- Future Fashion Factory aims to research and develop advanced digital and textile technologies to transform the fashion and textiles industry's design process, the industry's ability to shift from linear to circular economies as a means of waste reduction (and its related costs) and to create new sustainable business models. Innovative design and manufacturing advances will address the need to make the fashion industry greener by shortening product development cycles and lead times in order to increase agility and to develop fashion designers capable of exploiting new textile and digital technologies as part of the creative design process to promote sustainability and circularity in the fashion industry.
- Leeds aspires to be a city that is distinctive, sustainable, ambitious, fun and creative for all while promoting a more competitive, less wasteful, more resource efficient, low carbon economy. Spotlighting the work of FFF allows Leeds City Council the opportunity to promote the region's longstanding textile and manufacturing heritage and helps to address the digital and environmental challenges in the fashion and textile industry in an innovative way.

Recommendations

- a) To note the contents of this report and presentation and invite members to comment.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 Leeds City Council, via the Economic Policy Team, has been involved with the Future Fashion Factory Project from its inception in 2018. The opportunity to present a summary of the programmes of work undertaken by the project to date will give the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee some insight on what has been taking place and its impact on Leeds and the wider UK economy and at the same time address the growing issues surrounding the environmental sustainability of the fashion and textile industry.
- 2 Future Fashion Factory is an industry-led collaborative research programme that brings together the expertise of manufacturing, retail, public sector and academia in a pioneering way. The outcomes of the research projects will link the textile design and manufacturing centres within the Leeds City Region with the creative design and retail centre of London allowing for greater supply chain transparency, tackling over-consumption and creating circular economies.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards Affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 3 There are no equality and diversity, or cohesion and integration implications as a result of this report.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 4 Future Fashion Factory is an industry-led collaborative research programme that brings together expertise from ten core industry partners, with many more forming a wider network. The Programme involves collaboration with the Universities of Leeds, Huddersfield and the Royal College of Art, as well as the Textile Centre of Excellence in Yorkshire.

What are the resource implications?

- 5 There are no specific implications as a result of this report.

What are the legal implications?

- 6 There are no specific implications as a result of this report.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 7 There are no risk implications as a result of this report.

Does this proposal support the council's 3 Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

- 8 The project highlighted will support the work that the council needs to undertake to meet its targets as part of the Climate Emergency declaration.

Options, timescales and measuring success

a) What other options were considered?

9 Not applicable

b) How will success be measured?

10 Not applicable

c) What is the timetable for implementation?

11 Not applicable

Appendices

12 None

Background papers

13 None