

## Smart City Commission meeting

Date: 11 February 2015 10:30 - 12.30

Venue: Aton University, Conference Room

### Present:

Chair: Cllr. Lisa Trickett (LT)  
Lead Officer: Raj Mack (RM)  
Secretariat: Frances Sharma (FS)

### Officers:

Nicola Bryant (NB) - Digital Birmingham Business Development Officer  
Heike Schuster-James (HS-J) - Digital Birmingham Programme Manager  
Jackie Homan (JH) - Sustainability and Science City Manager  
Rebecca Farr (RF) - Principal Development Planning Officer  
Richard Rees (RR) - Strategic Energy Delivery Officer

### SCC Members:

Bjorn Birgisson (BB) - Aston University-School of Engineering and Applied Science  
Chirdeep Chhabra - Digital Catapult  
David Hardman (DH) - Innovation Birmingham Ltd  
Jas Bains (JB) - Ashram Moseley Housing  
Keith Osman (KO) - Birmingham City University - Research, Innovation and Enterprise Services  
Lean Doody (LD) - Arup  
Philip Extance (PE) - Aston University-Business Partnerships and Knowledge Transfer  
Scott Cain (SC) - Future Cities catapult  
Tim Jones (TJ) - Birmingham University Hospital  
Tracy Westall (TW) - Specialist Computer Centres (SCC)

### Apologies:

Ben Hawes (BH) - The Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS)  
Hilary Smyth-Allen (HS-A) - BPS (Business Professional Services) Birmingham Ltd  
John Cornett (JC) - KPMG  
Karen Strandoo (KS) - Energy Saving Trust  
Keith Bennett (KB) - Amey  
Tony Davis (TD) - WMAHSN (West Midland Academic Health Science Network)

## DISCUSSION RECORD

### 1. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes were accepted and taken as read.

They can be found at: <https://birminghamsmartcity.files.wordpress.com/2015/06/smart-city-commission-07-11-14-meeting-notes-final2.pdf>

### 2. THEMATIC PRESENTATIONS

LT handed over chairing of the thematic presentations to PE who provided introduction and context to development of Smart City spatial demonstrator located in the Eastern Corridor with presentations from each of the Smart City thematic leads on initial thinking.

- RM presented for Keith Bennett on Mobility

Presentation can be found at: <https://birminghamsmartcity.files.wordpress.com/2015/06/smart-city-commission-150211-thematic-presentations-mobility-amey.ppt>

- A key focus for mobility is to:
  - Improve how people travel around (whole journey approach) supporting modal shift and enabling ready access to employment and other opportunities
  - Reduce congestion and improve air quality
  - Provide access to travel data

An initial observation is to ensure that this is aligned to the Green Mobility plan (Action A1).

- TJ presented on Health

Presentation can be found at: <https://birminghamsmartcity.files.wordpress.com/2015/06/smart-city-commission-150211-thematic-presentations-health-tim-jones.pptx>

- WMAHSN has done a lot of work defining scope of Birmingham's population, which:
  - "Equals the population of Scotland and demography of the world" and
  - Has a high incidence of disease in its young population, which is moving into adulthood.
- NHS / healthcare:
  - Has an increasingly ageing workforce, with increased pension age, in a physically demanding job.
  - Introduction of new regulatory body.
  - Lack of leadership now regional level been removed.
- Birmingham is already strongest life-science centre in UK, with 170 bio tech industries; but this is unsung. HS2 link could / should make the Knowledge Quarter a cluster to rival the area around Euston.
- Need to translate research in to patient care more quickly.
- Digital vision is rooted in enabling greater co-production with patients and carers to look at new ways of working for a quicker impact; pulling and linking various data sources and systems together; interoperability and integration; economy wide health improvements supporting development of new products and services.

- BB presented on Information Market Place

- Focus on developins and enabling a programme of activity, creating conditions for data to be extracted and/or exchanged by multiple partners and stakeholders prioritised around health, skills, mobility; create the supply chain that may include business / developers that can create value with this new data
- City Council's transparency agenda, plus green and smart agendas and the Data Platform / portal of open data is a good beginning for the infrastructure and smart practice needed. This needs to be made wider, more available and connections made between the data sets.
- Need to create the right conditions and incentivise other organisations to share data and get involved and build long term sustainability.

- DH presented on Skills

Presentation can be found at: <https://birminghamsmartcity.files.wordpress.com/2015/06/smart-city-commission-150211-thematic-presentations-skills-david-hardman.pptx>

- East Birmingham corridor provides the opportunity to maximise the use of city beacons and areas of activity – e.g. LoB; Knowledge Quarter institutions; Digbeth; Millennium Point; Innovation Birmingham Campus and use of facilities and link together wider digital strengths that can impact on and reach beyond existing boundaries. This will then provide critical mass to attract investment and business to Birmingham.
- HS2 provides the opportunity to create aspiration and leverage allied investment opportunities and activity as well as the infrastructure to bring investment and business to Birmingham and region.
- The Centre for Cities report identifies the issues that cities need to address e.g. Birmingham ranking 35<sup>th</sup> for business start-ups and the 'Core City ranking' of second for 'Postcodes with superfast broadband' should also help in addressing the areas where ranking is poor.

- LT presented on spatial context of the Eastern Corridor and some of its challenges

Presentation can be found at: <https://birminghamsmartcity.files.wordpress.com/2015/06/smart-city-commission-150211-presentations-eastern-corridor-spatial-context-and-challenges-dblt.ppt>

- The corridor follows the HS2 route from HS2 Arrival (Curzon Street) to UK Central so providing the opportunity to capitalise on the economic growth potential as set out in the East Birmingham Prospectus for Growth
- The area rates poorly in terms of low skills, employment, health and wellbeing inequalities and connectivity. There is also a high level of segregation between the various communities within the area. So, the needs are there to make the core, buffer and transition zones of this area the right framework for strategic Smart City activity to benefit / improve the lives of citizens.
- Planned and existing investment in terms of business growth, housing and wider package of connectivity improvements provides the right framework to build in a Smart City approach to add value and accelerate outcomes to improve the lives of citizens

- LD: Presented on Lessons from elsewhere

Presentation can be found at: <https://birminghamsmartcity.files.wordpress.com/2015/06/smart-city-commission-150211-presentations-lessons-from-elsewhere-ld-arup.pptx>

- Creating a digital master plan will enable the city to identify key milestones and opportunity to integrate technology and infrastructure as part of the planning process built around knowledge of the construction schedule; baseline of what is going on; key objectives and phasing identified with political mandate (local/CEO/national).
  - Ensuring visibility of this will be integral for attracting investment (UKTI is looking for big tangible smart city projects that can be showcased). In terms of governance structure the City Council is best placed to lead development of a master plan with the smart city commission taking the role of critical friend.
  - Milestones should include Council election dates.
- SC (Future Cities Catapult): Initial reflections on Demonstrator
    - Internationally, cities are having to do more with less and this has become the main driver of innovation.
    - Future Cities Catapult can help with supporting development of demonstrator projects through their co-investment funding model and specialist team
    - It's useful to focus on a small number of activities as part of a bigger roadmap that are real priorities and that can get underway quickly and deliver initial impact.
    - 
    - Important to make the vision real and contextualised in terms of how citizens and businesses want to live, play, learn and work.
    - Need to identify the right cohort of people to work with to make things happen with the backing of the city council / GBSLEP and working closely with universities and other partners to develop innovation programmes and research – acceptance that as part of the innovation cycle it is 'good to fail' (cf Boston has both research and innovation programme which is more high risk but delivers results more quickly).
  - Further discussion
    - Unless lives for citizens of Nechells, particularly its young people improves, we have not succeeded; hence end users and key players need to be engaged sooner rather than later and this needs to be reflected in the Commission membership. Maintaining the strategic focus of the Commission (challenge & champion) is also important to gain wide city, national and international interest and investment.
    - Capitalising on the city's assets – youth and diversity and creativity and culture of the city is often the best way to engage and involve citizens.
    - Need to collectively maximise funding opportunities to focus on and support demonstrator projects.
    - Master plan / roadmap should not rule out layering other aspects later (e.g. creative and cultural; waste etc.).
    - Creating business case and getting plans together is in itself difficult in a financial constrained environment, therefore it is important to get a stake in the ground through the demonstrator to attract further investment and a ripple effect of further activity.
    - East Birmingham demonstrator provides the opportunity to focus roadmap activities on 2 key priorities – economically active and healthy ageing and develop high impact projects that have the potential to be scalable.
    - Marketing the smart city in an easy to consume way is fundamental to widen engagement, collaboration and seek investment

- A smart city communications workshop (27 February) is being led by Tracy Westall, Innovation Lead – GBSLEP with city partners to develop a narrative, hooks and mechanisms to bring it to life. Smart City Commission members are invited to be part of this to help frame the messaging (A2)
  - Further meetings are being facilitated by Future Cities Catapult to bring together Smart City thematic leads, East Birmingham prospectus leads and other relevant stakeholders to begin planning and scoping project ideas that will start layering the ecosystem in East Birmingham to take this forward (A3).

## **ACTIONS AND NEXT STEPS**

	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>OWNER(S)</b>
A1	Ensure alignment of Smart City activity with the Mobility Action Plan	RM / JH
A2	Circulate invitation for the Smart City communications workshop to Commission members	RM / NB
A3	Progress facilitated sessions with Future Cities Catapult	NB
A4	Produce short briefing note for the Deputy Leader, BCC to summarise discussion notes on development of the Smart City demonstrator to support his meeting regarding the East Birmingham Prospectus for Growth	NB/RM

### Dates of future meetings:

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015 @ 10 am

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015 @ 10 am

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016 @ 10 am