

Smart City Commission meeting

Date: 07 November 2014 11.00 – 13.30

Venue: Council House, Committee Room 6

Present:

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

Officers:

Heike Schuster-James (HSJ)
Katie Judge (for Nick Glover) – GBSLEP (KJ)
Nicola Bryant (NB)
Richard Rees (RR)

SCC Members:

Ben Hawes (BH) – The Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS)
Chirdeep Chhabra (CC) – CDE Catapult (by conference call)
Emma Barnett (EB) – WM Police
Hilary Smyth-Allen (HSA) – BPS (Business Professional Services) Birmingham Ltd)
John Cornett (JC) – KPMG
Keith Bennett (KB) – Amey
Paul Hartley (PH) - Birmingham City University
Philip Extance (PE) – Aston University
Tim Jones (TJ) – UHB
Tracy Westall (TW) – SCC

Apologies:

Bjorn Birgisson –Aston University (BB)
David Hardman – Innovation Birmingham Ltd (DH)
Jas Bains – Ashram Moseley Housing (JB)
Lean Doody – Arup (LD)
Simon Wright – Energy Saving Trust (SW)
Suzie Branch - Birmingham Future

DISCUSSION RECORD:

1. Introductions, Matters Arising & Action Update from last meeting:

Ref: [201-06-10-smart-city-commission-meeting-notes.pdf](#)

No matters arising and all previous actions covered by agenda

2. Mobilising for Action – Nicola Bryant

Ref: [Discussion pape-SCC07114-effective commission working](#)

- Cllr. Trickett thanked the thematic leads for supporting the roundtable workshops, particularly KPMG for their role in leading the organisational development of this work that helped shape the development of this paper.
- A key task of the discussion paper was to provide a framework approach that would both support the strategic delivery of the smart city roadmap as well as enable greater alignment and integration with the work of the Green Commission and the delivery of the Carbon Roadmap, by bringing together parallel strands of work. The paper also introduced the concept of a smart city spatial demonstrator that provides an opportunity to look at new and integrated ways of using technology, data and infrastructure to stimulate enterprise, enhance mobility and reduce skills, health and social inequalities by maximising and leveraging use of city assets and investments.

LT: Opened the discussion to members with the following key points:

- The smart city agenda must be made relevant to citizens, business and stakeholders. Roadmap narrative should be modelled on real problems in order to have more impact and credibility. We need to make sure that we build a compelling and coherent story that will also make Birmingham attractive to businesses and competitive on a global level.
- Setting the scale, scope and timescale will help to do this i.e. what will Birmingham look like in 2026, 2046 and what needs to be done to achieve that?
- In its broadest sense smart city is about creating well managed communities that meet the needs of the population and the role of the Commission should be as enablers that support and accelerate delivery of city outcomes.
- The key to the demonstrator is starting to understand the interdependency that exists between the different city systems in a locality setting to maximise the benefits. The roadmap themes themselves are interlinked and connected and while the demonstrator has highlighted two key priority areas this will still impact and draw on the other thematic areas of data, skills, energy etc. that are cross cutting.

- There are huge changes planned for the Eastern Corridor over the next 20 years providing real opportunity to develop smart city activities. Baseline activities at community / neighbourhood level and demonstrating scalability across any other community or area will need to be an important component of a smart city demonstrator. However, working out how the assets of 'The Learning Quarter', for example, can help the surrounding areas is the issue. To make the development benefit the surrounding area will have to be through influence, to make more happen than already is or alternatively look at more innovative means of procurement to incorporate smart city activities utilising existing budgets. The capacity to connect citizens and communities is a very important point.
- Digital connectivity and infrastructure is key to making us more future resilient and as part of a smart city agenda, connectivity in regeneration areas should be comprehensively built into development plans. The Smart City Commission should be pivotal in 'translating' what comprehensive 'smart city' development is and evidencing and capturing lessons learnt.
- The youth and the diversity of the population are two factors that makes Birmingham distinct and different; which is why 'economically active young people is a good focus to choose. A young, diverse population can be seen as a benefit to Birmingham for example, in attracting health research businesses / organisations.
- Despite the focus and discussion around different themes and geography etc. there is still the need to deal with issues around 'ordinary' local services that require solutions now. There are some great examples of bottom-up activity / influencing that we could be doing for example:
 - App designed by Lichfield Children's Social Services service users.
 - Peterborough City Council as part of their Smart City initiative, have put a 'Challenge and Solutions' activity on their website to get innovative ideas to city problems. (Ref: <http://www.brainwaveinnovations.co.uk/peterborough-dna/>)
- While there is nothing particularly new about the smart city ideas for addressing city challenges, what is innovative is the development of a Smart City framework that provides a more structured approach to build on many of the smart initiatives being developed in isolation across the city.
- Smart Cities are recognised as being significant for competitive growth. All UK cities, apart from London, have a GDP that is lower than the national GDP. This is not the case in any other country. Of the seven examples of 'Magnet Cities' (Ref: KPMG report http://www.kpmg.co.uk/creategraphics/07_2014/Magnet_cities/index.html#1) what gives them a GDP higher than national GDP are all the sorts of smart initiatives and developments as have been discussed around the table.

3. Progress report: Birmingham Smart City Roadmap - Raj Mack Ref:



Smart City
Commission-141107-5

Raj Mack provided an update on the development of the Smart City Roadmap actions. The action tracker shows the work that is already happening in the context of a) businesses and citizens and b) public services. The following points were highlighted:

- The complexity and size of Birmingham LA area makes the problems here different to elsewhere. How do we get smart in the midst of this complexity? We need to find better, smarter ways of working and develop more 'Big Future' thinking.
- To be 'Smart' data needs to be current. Many actions to reform services are based on out-of-date data. We need to be better connected (IoT) to get the new data
- Part of the role of the Commission should be to help identify the issues and develop the strategic plans and possibly use the intelligence and assets of the Commission members in workshops and smaller groups. The parameters and governance of the Commission need to be clearly defined to allow this to happen.
- We should recognise some positives:
 - Our Smart City Roadmap is a UK first for documenting a strategic framework approach for Smart City development cited as an exemplar and demonstrating our lead on smart city development.
 - The tracker demonstrates the high level of smart city activity already underway with the potential for further scalability e.g.
 - Underpinning infrastructure to enable digital connectivity which includes planning blueprint, detailing what needs to be built in to regeneration developments, rather than having to retrofit. Some of this is beginning to be embedded in planning requirements; other parts are still aspirational;
 - The broadband voucher scheme for small and medium businesses / enterprises (SMEs), delivered by March 2015;
 - Work is beginning on setting up an open data platform and establishing an information market place, this is a key challenge to a smart city future and very relevant to devolution. This has been done from nothing and Birmingham is one of the first cities to do this. This has been set as a priority and is in process of being delivered.
 - People & skills agenda: Supporting programme of activities on skills development around for example open data, coding and digital business and working with other service providers to support digital inclusion initiatives and city wide strategy.
 - There's a lot of work on developing and using technology and different ways of working to improve access to health, work and education services.
 - Innovation driving economic, health and energy efficiency through for example EU funded projects such as Discover4Carers' - skills for carers and Smart Spaces – use of ICT for building energy management
- There are some projects / actions on the tracker that have been dropped after initial investigations and feasibility. However the remaining projects that are successfully in development should be used by the thematic leads as a baseline to build from. (Ref: **ACTIONS 3.1 & 3.2**).

- We need to look at how we get better at capturing learning from other cities and measure / benchmark performance? A recognised model for measuring performance of Smart Cities is yet to be defined; i.e. there is not a consistent set of KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) e.g. Finland has 70 KPIs.
- Should the Commission, be holding people to account for how smart our Services are?
- Current Council procurement and contract requirements and procedures seem to hinder and act as a barrier for innovation.

4. GBSLEP (Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership) - Update on regional issues and challenges (IT / Innovation perspective) ~ Tracy Westall

- Birmingham is an important catalyst and cornerstone for the regional vision for GBLEP.
- A role of GBSLEP is to help stimulate innovation. However contextualising what innovation is to make it meaningful is a challenge.
- A lot is being done and it *can* all be articulated together with the Smart City vision but this needs to happen in a way that has value and appeal to citizens and businesses.
- 'Smart' is being used in all its meanings: ways of working and in deliverables etc. which means that we need to be much clearer and provide real examples in order to bring it to life.
- Joining up regional Councils is happening, providing even greater impetus for a 'smart city' region approach.
- The next meeting of the GBSLEP is 28th November and the Commission will be presenting their vision and Roadmap. We need to be clear about the key messages for this.
- There is a lot of learning from projects and activities as well as development of new ideas that we can offer to the LEP in addition to accessing funding to drive further investment in smart city initiatives. The opportunity and potential is to ensure that the smart city agenda is integrated at all levels of future planning and development at GBSLEP level.
- The City's 'Growth Committee' is working on devolution mapping; 'Smart agenda' should be part of that too.
- A discussion paper is being developed for the GBSLEP exploring opportunities for Smart City collaborations and will be shared with Commission members (Ref: ACTION 4.1)

5. Information Market Place

- PE and BB have been researching: how to extract the information (data) from various organisations; how to make it available and how it can be used.
- Beginning to bring together organisations with supplies of data and those who can use it into workshops.

- Data can be used to create intelligence that we can sell to other countries
- Understanding how this relates to existing data platforms will be important. There are lots of different data sets so perhaps we should be identifying mechanisms for pulling data, from wherever it is stored, as needed, rather than storing it in one platform?
- 'Birmingham Data factory' is in very early stages and launch planned for March 2015. BCC are training people on how to process requests for information and currently ironing out technical details regarding process before release can be signed off. The launch plan will focus around the idea of "Give us your data" and it would be good to have at least one dataset from each of the Smart City organisations around the table (Ref: ACTION 5.1)
- Organisations may have to be persuaded of the benefits of 'giving us data sets'. Benefits come over time and not all can be foreseen.
- Police certainly have a lot of data and there may be some that can be released.
- There are clear examples that can be used as evidence of the benefits of releasing data.
 - London Transport's release of data led to creation of 230 Apps and many unforeseen benefits to them and their service users. (Ref: <https://www.tfl.gov.uk/info-for/open-data-users/our-open-data>).
 - Locally specific services can be developed / services located with intelligence.
- We need to show we are doing things at least as well as others; things that others should aim to learn from and replicate. To promote / spin what already exists here would go a long way.
- Having an evidence base is crucial to decide how to distribute and use shrinking resources. Developing this sort of evidence base is something universities are good at; but which is still very weak in public sector organisations. There is a role for universities to assist in this area.
- There is an opportunity to collaborate with Warwick University's 'Urban Science' centre of 50 PHD students to improve outcomes of various innovations etc. and they are experts in 'Big Data'
- Proposals are underway to create an 'Institute of New Urban Science in Birmingham' – BONUS involving a collaboration of Warwick, Birmingham, Aston and Birmingham City Universities and Birmingham City Council. It aims to use data, city modelling and undertake research that will support greater collaboration with business and other city partners like the police to identify and address city challenges. Partnership and sharing of expertise between academics and industry could be very beneficial to city.
- Such collaboration is a necessary aspect of securing most funding and to have an institute to submit joint bids; secure research & development investment would be helpful; as well as assisting existing programmes (need to differentiate between joint bids; commercial research and development initiatives).

6. Next Steps

- We need to develop a narrative and common language etc. to be able to engage different stakeholders and investors in Birmingham Smart City activity.

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- There are a number of examples of cities which have embedded new technologies through collaborating with universities. In Bristol this has worked particularly well and it would be useful to look at their model (Ref. Action 6.1)
 - All UK Smart Cities seem to be following the agenda in different way. Central Government must have a role in creating a more coherent network. They are developing a self-assessment tool for Cities and RM is to liaise with BIS to understand its implications (Ref. Action 6.2)
 - Further meetings to be arranged for thematic leads to progress action plans and development of spatial demonstrator (Ref. Actions 6.3 & 6.4)
7. **AOB:** None. Meeting closed 13:35

Actions Log:

<u>ACTION REF</u>	<u>ACTIONS FROM 7 NOVEMBER 2014</u>	<u>DUE</u>	<u>OWNER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
3.1	Up-date tracker to show leads contact details for actions / projects	17/12/14	RM	CLOSED
3.2	Up-date tracker to show Mobility theme actions since integration with Green Commission	On-going	RM	OPEN
4.1	Development of draft discussion paper for GBSLEP board meeting on 28/11/14 exploring opportunities for smart city collaborations. Include case studies demonstrating what deliverable differences will be made to life of citizens & business.	24/11/14	RM/NB	OPEN
5.1	Briefing paper on Birmingham Data Factory and Information market Place for meeting of Cabinet Office	Dec Cabinet Office meeting	RM/LT	CLOSED
6.1	LT and RM to arrange meeting with Bristol's Future Cities lab team	03/15	RM	OPEN
6.2	RM to liaise with BIS to understand the implications of the self-assessment tool being developed for Cities	03/15	RM	OPEN
6.3	Further meetings to be arranged with thematic leads to develop approach	14/01/15	RM/NB	CLOSED
6.4	Identify potential spatial demonstrator concept to develop smart city activities & projects (on-going)	24/01/15	NB	OPEN

Date of next meeting: 11th February 2015