

# Stronger City Economy Scrutiny Panel

21st March 2017

<b>Report title</b>	Smart City	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor John Reynolds City Economy	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Keren Jones, City Economy	
<b>Originating service</b>	City Economy	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Keren Jones Tel Email	Service Director City Economy 01902 554739 <a href="mailto:keren.jones@wolverhampton.gov.uk">keren.jones@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Cabinet Member for City Economy Place Leadership Team Strategic Executive Board	

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## Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

- The Scrutiny Panel consider the proposals and progress for the development of a Smart City Strategy and agree the role of the Scrutiny Panel in the development process.

## **1.0 Purpose**

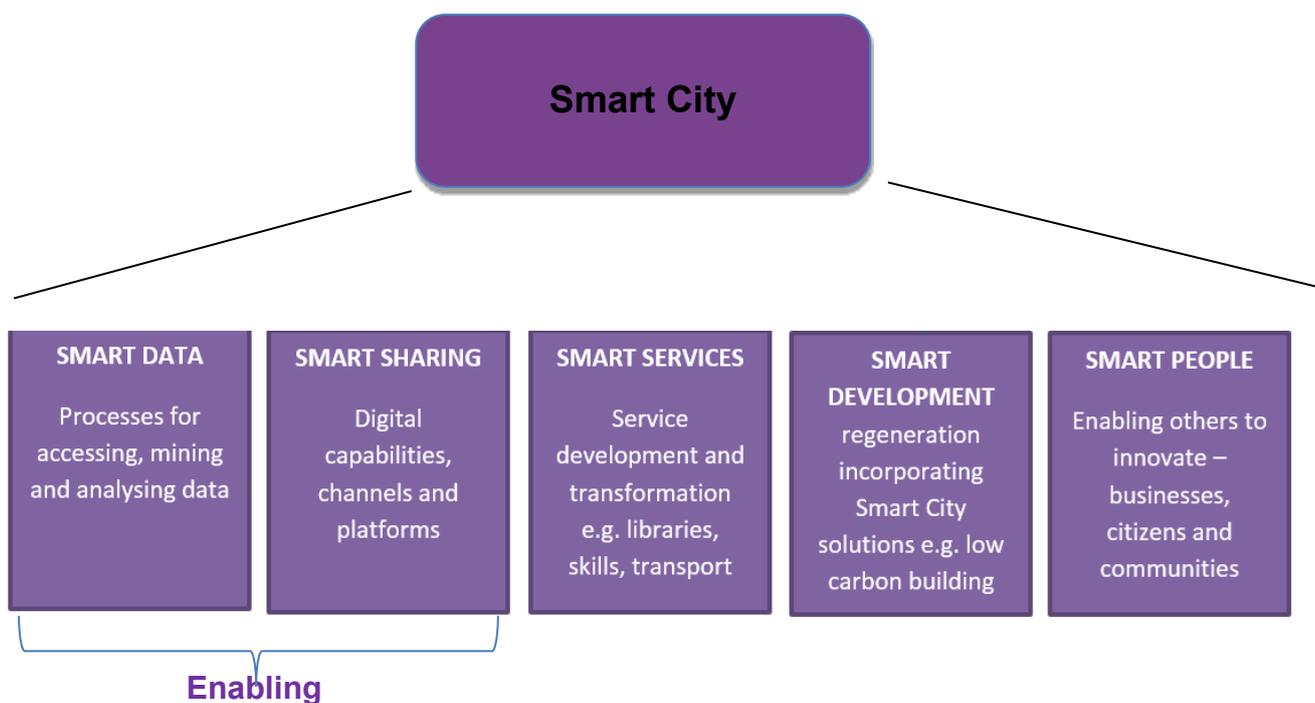
- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Stronger City Economy Scrutiny Panel on the proposals to develop a Smart City Strategy.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 “Smart City” is a term to describe ICT led urban innovation, new modes of governance and urban citizenship. A Smart City is one that is open to exploring everything from robotics, cloud computing, analytics, visualisation and personalisation. At its core a Smart City utilises digital technologies to manage data in a way that helps support, inform and manage decision-making and operational tasks as well as providing new business opportunities and empowering citizens.
- 2.2 The City Economy Service has been the lead Black Country Local Authority providing support to the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Green Growth Board. This has included the production of a Black Country Smart City Strategy which provides a strategic framework for projects and for funding proposals (see appendix 1). There is also a Project Pipeline of emerging Black Country Smart City projects (see appendix 2). These were approved by the LEP Board on 24 October 2016. Projects are developed around a set of themes based on the European Smart Cities Framework.
- 2.3 Alongside the development and delivery of Smart City projects, a Black Country Smart City Network is being established to enable networking, the sharing of projects and ideas and identification of partners and of opportunities for collaboration. This Network is being supported by the City of Wolverhampton Council, the Black Country LEP and University of Wolverhampton and has already established links with other initiatives within the West Midlands Combined Authority such as Digital Birmingham and the Birmingham Smart City Alliance.
- 2.4 At the city level, the City of Wolverhampton Council is pro-actively transforming its operations through the Digital Transformation Programme. This is being enhanced by specific initiatives with local partner organisations, like the Wolverhampton Work Box, that embraces Smart City thinking.

## **3.0 Smart City Strategy**

- 3.1 The smartness of a city is not about the latest technology it has adopted, it is about how well technology is being used in an integrated way to help the city function more effectively. A Smart City uses information and communication technologies (ICT) to enhance quality, performance and interactivity of urban services, to reduce costs and resource consumption and to improve contact between citizens and government. Below is a diagram that sets out the main themes for a SMART City Development Framework for the City of Wolverhampton. It is based on good practice and research into the approaches being taken by the leading UK Cities for Smart City technology, as well as good practice identified by NESTA and the British Standards Institute.



3.2 The full list of activities identified are set out in appendix 2. Priorities identified as a result of this exercise are:

<b>Smart Data Smart Sharing</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Digital transformation and Channel Shift:</b> including customer engagement platform and ‘my account’ single sign in for residents</li> <li>2. <b>Hackathon events:</b> seeking to solve challenges utilising technology to program an application</li> <li>3. <b>Smart Citizens:</b> enabling residents and businesses to access data held by public bodies through open data share transparency</li> <li>4. <b>City App Platform</b> for the City offering a single place making life better for local people</li> <li>5. <b>Wi-fi:</b> in public buildings and public spaces</li> </ol>
<b>Smart Services</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Smart Education and Skills:</b> use of technology to engage learners at all levels including encouraging take-up of STEM subjects incorporating initiatives in primary schools, secondary schools to vocational learning</li> <li>2. <b>Wolves@work:</b> interactive website improving access to information and support around skills and employment</li> <li>3. <b>E health:</b> Prevention and managing of long term health conditions including diabetes and monitor blood pressure including self-management tools and monitoring apps which trigger alerts if readings outside of the norms</li> <li>4. <b>Independent living:</b> through telecare and digital personal assistants</li> </ol>
<b>Smart</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Superfast broadband:</b> across all parts of the city</li> </ol>

<b>Development</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <b>Smart transport:</b> including traffic management via Urban Traffic Control (UTC), smart parking and LED street lighting</li> <li>3. <b>Reducing Greenhouse Gases:</b> including alternative energy sources, solar power, electric cars and charging and energy efficient housing</li> <li>4. <b>Smart public realm:</b> including Heath Town Lighting Demonstration project, low carbon lighting and PV paving slabs</li> <li>5. <b>Smart City Housing Demonstrators:</b> in key areas of the city</li> <li>6. <b>Smart City Learning Quarter:</b> including use of technology to enhance learning and shared management of spaces</li> </ol>
<b>Smart People</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Digital inclusion:</b> getting residents online to benefit from Smart services</li> <li>2. <b>Community driven digital spaces:</b> and fab lab activities (BC Make) with roll out to libraries (Maker Spaces)</li> <li>3. <b>Smart Learning opportunities:</b> University of Wolverhampton's SMART activities including Visualisation Centre, Grand Post House and Prototype Centre's FabLab where businesses can access modern prototyping resources with support from specialists</li> <li>4. <b>Business support:</b> enabling the take-up of technology to increase economic growth including University initiatives above.</li> </ol>

**3.3 Proposed way forward:** there is a risk that this work will not gain any traction if it is not simple, understandable and the benefits clearly articulated. Being a smarter city could bring financial benefits to the Council, and better outcomes for local people. We are proposing to take forward the agenda as follows:

- **Co-ordination of the Smart Cities Framework:** The audit has demonstrated that there are a lot of initiatives underway, or being developed, that contribute to Wolverhampton being a smarter city. However, they are often in silos, wider links and lessons learnt are not shared across the council and city and the benefits not captured. Effective project management of the Smart Cities work, linking with the Black Country LEP and wider Combined Authority is required. This should include analysis of potential Smart City initiatives and projects, and effectively signposting projects to appropriate funding streams for bids (such as ERDF). To ensure that this is truly a cross organisational response, a proposal for a dedicated project management resource is being developed. It is anticipated the cashable benefits associated with successful Smart City initiatives would fully justify this outlay in terms of a financial return on investment, with the social and environmental returns also likely to be considerable.
- **Wider ownership and engagement:** It is also proposed that an expert facilitator is appointed to facilitate a workshop with a wider group of stakeholders across the organisation, and partners such as the University and the Health sector. This will enable us to tighten up our evidence base, understand how we will measure impact and help shape our plans in line with best practice.

- **Smart City innovation and business case development fund:** We will also explore the feasibility of setting up a Smart City project development fund for Council service and teams to bid into to enable:
  - **Priority projects** to be developed into a full business case, including the accessing of technical expertise
  - **Innovative ideas** to be tested. These would need to be co-ordinated, benefits tracked across the city and links made to other funding opportunities – such as the Black Country LEP’s pipeline of projects.

#### **4.0 Financial implications**

4.1 Development work to date has been met within existing resources. Current proposals relating to developing the Smart City Strategy recommends appointment of a project manager and an innovation and business case development fund subject to a budget being identified. [ES/09032017/U].

#### **5.0 Legal implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications to this report. [Legal Code: TS/08032017/W]

#### **6.0 Equalities implications**

6.1 Smart technology can have positive equalities implications, for example, use of Smart technology can help people control their health conditions or enable older people to stay at home longer.

#### **7.0 Environmental implications**

7.1 Smart technology can have positive environmental implications and are strongly linked to the low carbon agenda.

#### **8.0 Human resources implications**

8.1 If approved, funding for a Smart City Project Manager will be identified.

#### **9.0 Corporate landlord implications**

9.1 Smart technology can have positive implications in terms of making the corporate landlord estate more efficient.

#### **10.0 Schedule of background papers**

10.1 Black Country Smart City Strategy December 2016  
Smart City Strategy project pipeline