

Agenda Item	22
Report No	RES/77/14

Report on the Smart City Initiative

Report by Head of Digital Transformation and Performance and Building Maintenance Manager

Summary

This paper outlines the definition of Smart City and proposes the initial steps Highland Council can take to move towards achieving the benefits of a Smart City approach.

1. Background

1.1 The definition of a Smart City was laid out in the 'Smart Cities and the Smart Cities Readiness Programme' briefing note sent to the Chief Executives of the Scottish Cities Alliance on the 11th of July. It states:

'A Smart City strategy harnesses the potential to integrate data and information flows between different service providers. It is underpinned by concepts such as open data, citizen engagement, innovation and establishing new forms of collaboration across the public and with the private sector'.

1.2 Highland Council has expressed an interest in the Smart City approach. Highland is geographically large and diverse in the size of communities therefore the approach proposed is a Smart City Region which would include smaller communities out with Inverness in the longer term, however shorter term it is proposed that Inverness as one of the recognised seven Cities should be used as the pilot for any interim development under the Smart City initiative.

1.3 The Smart Cities work is currently being led by the Head of Digital Transformation and the Performance and Building Maintenance Manager who have been appointed as the City Sponsors for the Smart City Initiative on behalf of the Council.

2. Current Position

2.1 Highland Council is part of the Seven Cities Alliance (SCA), along with Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth and Stirling. The focus for the Alliance is on three programmes: Infrastructure, Low Carbon and Smart Cities. It is expected that projects align to City Investment Plans which have been developed over the past 18 months. Councils are not restricted to these categories and can develop their own projects.

2.2 Highland has received a number of approaches from potential IT partners who are keen to share and bring their expertise to the region. These include Fujitsu, IBM and BT.

3. Funding

3.1 Funding is available through a number of routes, for example, European Structural Funds of £10m which is to be co-financed/match funded by cities and runs from 2014

to 2020. EU Horizon 2020 funding is available for projects that cross several themes – transport, digital and energy. In addition to public funds, the private sector is interested in being involved with projects and this is something that Highland would explore once their strategy is developed.

4. **Next Steps**

4.1 To understand our baseline position across a number of business areas (domains) a series of self-assessment exercises is being undertaken, business area by business area, facilitated by a consultancy called Urban Tide and funded by the Scottish Cities Alliance. This involves a broad range of Highland Council staff representing functions such as development, economy, environment, education, culture, tourism, transport, and infrastructure. External stakeholders are important contributors to the overall process and it is recommended that, for example, the ICT provider participates along with representatives from education and business federations.

4.2 The self-assessment tool-kit consists of a complex process of three stages. In summary,

Stage 1: SCOPE - Looking city-wide, deciding specific domains to be the priority

- Complete by 26th September / end of September. A domain is a business area which has a city wide context such as transport, waste, tourism etc.
- Highland, on the advice of the Director of Development and Infrastructure, has chosen Tourism and Transport as being good business areas which could span across the city/region and also have an impact outside of Highland with potential external Partners.. **COMPLETE**

Stage 2: DOMAIN-ASSESSMENT - Looking into more detail at the selected domains

- Undertaken with support from Urban Tide at a domain-level workshop. A cross section of partners attended a workshop on 20th October to launch the online assessment of HCs position in relation to Smart travel and tourism. Using a Maturity Model the assessment asks Stakeholders to rate the city in relation to travel and tourism against the following criteria:
 - Strategic Intent
 - Data
 - Technology
 - Governance and Service Delivery Models
 - Stakeholder Engagement

COMPLETE

Stage 3: CITY WIDE ANALYSIS – Taking Stage 2 input for the 2 domains but with a full city-wide perspective

- Full City wide self-assessment to be completed by 14 November

4.3 The draft investment roadmap will be developed during December by the Scottish Government and Urban Tide and in January 2015 a single application will be put forward by SCA to access smart cities ERDF funding.

4.4 The main output from the assessment is to understand our baseline position and begin to develop a vision and strategy for a Smart City investment programme. Alongside this is developing a road map which matches Highland Council investment with funding opportunities.

- 4.5 Examples of future strategies could include the development of applications to support tourism and real time visitor information, Council customers reporting faults, work scheduling and using real time data to manage traffic flows and car parking availability.
- 4.6 The next generation Broadband involvement by Scottish Government, BDUK, HIE and BT means that new opportunities will arise to utilise data across the Highlands and so a Smart City Region is increasingly possible.
- 4.7 The Alliance is about sharing, co-operating and collaborating across the cities and the collated findings will help each city identify partner cities where there are synergies, or cities may agree to work on separate initiative and share the learning going forward.
- 4.7 Once priorities have been established other organisational requirements will have to be considered, such as building consortiums with industry and commercial partners to deliver outputs. These outputs could help the Council address the need for transformational change and meet the savings targets.

5. Implications

- 5.1 **Resources:** There are resource implications arising from the Smart City activity. For Highland to be in the best position to secure funding and share knowledge with other cities (UK and Europe) resources will be required to co-ordinate and manage these activities. A full review of the resource requirements will be undertaken once the outcome of the single application is known in early 2015, and a further update report will be presented to members at Resources Committee in February 2015.
- 5.3 Smart City initiatives are focusing on infrastructure and low carbon projects and will have a positive impact on **climate change/carbon clever** and **rural** activities.
- 5.4 There are no known risks/equality/ Gaelic implications arising from this report.

<h2>6. Recommendation</h2>

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">6.1 Committee is invited to note the current position and timescales. |
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Designation: The Director of Community Services

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