

# CABINET

## The 'Smart District' Connecting the Public Realm 3 Oct 2017

### Joint Report of Chief Officer (Environment) and Chief Officer (Resources)

<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>				
To seek Cabinet's support for developing the concept of 'Smart District' - using technology to generate efficiencies and improve how we deliver our services.				
<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Non-Key Decision</b>		<b>Referral from Cabinet Member</b>
<b>Date of notice of forthcoming key decision</b>		16 August 2017		
<b>This report is public.</b>				

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF COUNCILLORS HUGHES AND LEYSHON

- (1) That Cabinet supports the concept of 'Smart District' to inform the Council's emerging digital strategy and 'management of the place'.
- (2) That the business case be developed further for consideration during the budget and planning process, with initial operational focus on the management of the public realm.

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 One of the Council's corporate priorities is that of providing clean, green and safe public spaces.
- 1.2 To achieve this, work has been taking place to establish best practice. It is clear from this that meeting future expectations and demands will require ambition, innovation and creativity.
- 1.3 This has fed into exploring how the use of technology can help to deliver services better – an aim that is at the heart of developing the Council's digital strategy.
- 1.4 Initially the areas of focus were -
  - Ensuring that the Council, and its partners, can effectively manage the variety of daily activities that take place in the centres of Lancaster and Morecambe and the consequent impacts on public services and safety.
  - Supporting the wider impact of the increasing number of large events

that occur in Lancaster and Morecambe.

- Ensuring that the public infrastructure for which the Council has responsibility recognisably supports the Council's ambition for economic development.
- Meeting the expectations of the public and businesses in relation to the use of, availability of and development of technology.
- Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of public realm services like street cleansing, grounds maintenance and off street car parking.
- Ensuring that in the event of emergencies footage is available from key public locations to assist the Council and services like the Police, Fire and Rescue etc
- Helping reduce long standing environmental problems like vandalism, fly tipping, littering and dog fouling.
- Developing innovative and creative technological solutions that in turn provide potential income opportunities for the Council.
- Modernising the Council's approach to managing the public realm and make us an exemplar in this regard.

1.5 The work undertaken so far has resulted in the conclusion that the practical use of available and developing technologies will be invaluable in helping the Council's approach to managing a wide range of public services and functions.

1.6 Another priority of the Council is that of economic development. For the economy to develop there need to be an effective public infrastructure. There also needs to be an effective technological infrastructure. In developing this proposal it has become apparent that whilst the starting point was looking at how to improve the public realm the benefits of taking an innovative approach will impact positively in the economic development ambitions of the District.

1.7 A report on a pilot project associated with the Smart District concept (in context of CCTV) is due to be considered by Council 27 September. This report seeks Cabinet's consideration of developing proposals further, for consideration during the budget and planning process.

## **2.0 Proposal Details**

2.1 Council provided operations like street cleansing, waste collection, grounds maintenance etc. will always rely heavily on people and vehicles. However using technology and the functionality that brings will help us better allocate these resources. This will increase efficiency, reduce waste, provide accurate information, help us respond better to our customers etc.

2.2 To date significant improvements have already been generated through the use of tracking systems on vehicles, cameras on bin wagons, electronic mapping of public realm assets, electronic allocation of repair work via handheld devices etc. However, there is still much work to be done.

2.3 There are a wide array of technological tools available and being developed that could help us improve services now and in the future. The usefulness of these tools is very much dependent on being able to quickly and easily get the information from the tools from where they are located to the point where they are managed.

2.4 Having access to a wireless infrastructure that can be easily connected into and then effectively transfers information from A to B would equip us to deliver step changes in the way we deliver services.

2.5 As an example trials of new camera technology have shown how useful

having a view (real time and recorded) of public space can be to helping manage a range of services. The pictures can be conveniently viewed from a desktop computer or mobile device. Recently this allowed easy monitoring of crowd movements at the recent events we have had on Morecambe promenade which then helped with management of services like cleansing.

- 2.6 Furthermore the infrastructure could then support mobile cameras that can be used to help tackle issues like fly tipping and vandalism.
- 2.7 The infrastructure could also be expanded to the Council estate to improve security and access in Council owned buildings via automatic door entry systems.
- 2.8 Sensor technology could be used to help with managing parking and knowing when and how often to empty street bins.
- 2.9 Once connected our public assets become a convenient resource to deploy other applications. By augmenting street furniture with environmental sensors, we could more effectively monitor pollution levels.
- 2.10 Use of technology in this falls under what is known as the 'Internet of Things' and has led to projects that have resulted in Smart Cities.
- 2.11 As a District we have an ambition to be seen as innovative, working in collaboration with credible partners. This proposal provides the basis for this District to become an exemplar in this regard. The potential advantages of this in terms of economic development are very significant.
- 2.12 The proposal would also involve the development of a partnership, with an internationally recognised market leader, to provide the infrastructure that can be used as the platform for an ongoing project that will look be used to build on technology to manage a range of Council functions.
- 2.13 Technology is such that the applications of it are only limited by what we can think of. However, once this is in place obvious very practical developments could include-

- Deployment of mobile cameras to help tackle fly tipping and vandalism in parks etc
- Rationalising all the Councils camera systems
- Using cameras as footfall counters in selected locations
- Using cameras to provide pay on foot car parking
- Measuring the spare capacity on car parks
- Measuring air quality at key locations
- Measuring how full litter bins are in select locations
- Providing door access systems in Council buildings/ housing blocks
- Helping manage events
- Safeguarding lone workers
- Monitoring humidity in Council houses
- Helping emergency planning
- Providing virtual tourist information for visitors

There will be additional costs for these advancements. However the model proposed is one whereby new developments would be expected to generate efficiencies / savings that would eventually offset the cost.

- 2.14 The economic development benefits are much wider. The development of a partnership with a market leader means that there is the opportunity to broaden the coverage of the 'internet of things' to benefit a wide range of stakeholders. It provides opportunities for research projects to be tested in our District, it provides opportunities for technology developers to showcase their products in our District.
- 2.15 The aim would be to be an exemplar. This would of course showcase the District as whole.

### **3.0 Details of Consultation**

- 3.1 The development of this proposal has involved Police, Lancaster BID, Morecambe BID

### **4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)**

	<b>Option 1:</b> Support the concept of Smart district, and consider proposals during the forthcoming budget.	<b>Option 2:</b> Do not support in concept and continue with traditional methods.
Advantages	Allows consideration alongside all other budget options.  Allows time to develop a wider implementation plan	None
Disadvantages	None.	Lost opportunity to take advantage of digital technologies to make service improvements and efficiency savings.
Risks		

### **5.0 Officer Preferred Option (and comments)**

- 5.1 The Officer preferred option is Option 1.

### **6.0 Conclusion**

- 6.1 This report sets out by working in partnership the Council could take a leading role supporting economic development through the use of technology whilst at the same time generating efficiencies and improving its own services.

#### **RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK**

As outlined in the report

#### **CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, HR, Sustainability and Rural Proofing):**

If Cabinet supports the report as projects are developed impact assessments will be undertaken.

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

If Cabinet supports the report as projects are developed the legal implications will be assessed in detail.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

If Cabinet supports the proposals options would be developed for consideration as part of the budget, but there would be no direct financial implications arising in the meantime.

**OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources, Information Services, Property, Open Spaces:**

If Cabinet supports the report the implications for other services and open space will be considered in detail.

**SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The s151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

**MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

none

**Contact Officer:** Mark Davies

**Telephone:** 01524 582401

**E-mail:** mdavies@lancaster.gov.uk

**Ref:**