



Strategic Transport Leadership Board

13 May 2022

Agenda Item 6

Innovation workstream

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board:

- a) Receives a presentation from Dr Wolfgang Schuster, Executive Director, Ecosystem Innovation - Connected Places Catapult**
- b) Reviews the approach to supporting innovation activity across the region**
- c) Supports officer engagement with EEH to better deliver and coordinate innovation projects in the region**

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. This paper provides a high-level overview of the proposed approach to directly supporting further regional mobility innovation, supporting the delivery of the EEH transport strategy.
- 1.2. Welcomes the presentation from Dr Wolfgang Schuster Executive Director, Ecosystem Innovation, Connected Places Catapult
- 1.3. Invites discussion and comments on the presentation and approach outlined in this paper.

2. Key points to note

- 2.1. EEH has set out in its Business Plan an ambition to strengthen our support for innovation.
- 2.2. A key part of that is strengthening the role of the Innovation Working Group, potentially supported by a Champion from the EEH Strategic Transport Leadership Board.
- 2.3. EEH is looking to work more closely with the Connected Places Catapult (CPC).

3. Context

- 3.1. The UK government has committed to set a clear path for the UK to become a global science superpower and an innovation nation.
- 3.2. In support of these ambitions, government has pledged to reach 2.4% R&D intensity in the UK by 2027, catalysed by a substantial increase in public investment in R&D, rising to a record £20 billion by 2024 to 2025
- 3.3. The EEH transport strategy recognises the unique position of the region as a centre for innovation, IP development, particularly in relation to leading-edge mobility, digital, connected vehicles, connected & smart infrastructure design and demonstration.
- 3.4. Innovation in mobility and connectivity will play a key role in delivering the UK's Net Zero targets – playing an even greater role in the economic success of our region.

4. Consideration

- 4.1. EEH transport strategy identifies our ambition: To support sustainable growth and improve quality of life and wellbeing through a world-class, decarbonised transport system which harnesses the region's global expertise in technology and innovation to unlock new opportunities for residents and businesses, in a way that benefits the UK as a whole.
- 4.2. EEH has set out in its three-year Business Plan an ambition to strengthen our support for innovation.
- 4.3. Through the Innovation Working Group, there is a key opportunity for EEH to directly support the development of funding bids to UK Research and Innovation as well as other innovation grant funding bodies such as ADEPT and DfT. The allocated funding aims to support the development of multi-authority funding bids in 2022/23.
- 4.4. In developing the approach, EEH will create a prioritisation matrix that can ensure all proposals are given fair consideration for funding. In practice this means projects/ideas that support feasibility studies/innovation/piloting in more than one EEH authority and directly support transport strategy outcomes will be looked upon more favourably.
- 4.5. EEH and our constituent partners are well connected to business, academia, and the Catapults. Through these routes we are able to facilitate the development high-quality consortiums and innovative ideas, solutions and systems that support better connectivity in the region.
- 4.6. EEH is looking to work more closely with the Connected Places Catapult (CPC). The CPC are ideally placed to support innovation in the region and have a clear focus on the delivery and application of innovation to support better places, connectivity, and net zero. EEH will investigate further opportunities to collaborate with the CPC in the future.
- 4.7. In addition, the creation of a board champion for innovation would allow this programme of work to have the right level of profile while also guiding the focus of the EEH Innovation Working Group.

5. Stakeholder and resource implications

- 5.1. Some officer time will be required to support the development of innovation projects and once agreed, support the appointed bid writers to develop high quality submissions. This will vary depending on the scale, location and type of projects selected.
- 5.2. Any funding bids developed will include the costs for all participants including local authorities. This will allow for participating authorities to recoup staffing and overhead costs for any participation in projects.
- 5.3. Should EEH and partners develop funding bids for capital projects that involve notable infrastructure installation or changes, officers will utilise their local sign-off procedures.
- 5.4. EEH will provide secretariat support to the Chair of the Innovation Working Group.
- 5.5. EEH will work with our partners to support the integration of any successful learning outcomes from this programme into local policy and business as usual delivery.

6. Next steps

- 6.1. EEH will keep the Board and Transport Officer Group informed regarding any bid development and commit to regular updates with the allotted Board champion/representative.
- 6.2. EEH will investigate the development of an MOU with the Connected Places Catapult and strive to develop a closer working relationship with the wider Catapult community.

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Innovation manager
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