

TRANSPORT BOARD

30/08/2019

FUTURE MOBILITY

Purpose of Report

This paper is to inform the Transport Board of a piece of work that has been commissioned by Sheffield City Region (SCR) in relation to Future Mobility. This paper sets out the aims and anticipated outputs from this work and Board members are invited to discuss the opportunities presented by Future Mobility trends.

Thematic Priority

6. Secure investment in infrastructure where it will do most to support growth.

Freedom of Information

The paper will be available under the Combined Authority Publication Scheme

Recommendations

Board members are invited to review the content of the paper and to

- 1) Identify innovative projects, approaches and companies that the SCR should be engaging with as we embark on the Future Mobility commission;
- 2) Identify any particular opportunities to be explored as we develop this activity.

1. Introduction

1.1 SCR's Transport Strategy is underpinned by a series of implementation plans. One of the cross-cutting themes that flows through our strategy is innovation and technology. SCR are determining how best to approach this theme and develop an implementation plan. This paper sets out the context for this work and the outcomes anticipated from initial exploratory research.

1.2 On 23 May 2019, SCR submitted an Expression of Interest to DfT's Future Mobility Zones Fund to create a series of mobility hubs around the AMID area. Unfortunately, SCR were unsuccessful in this process however it highlighted the need for further work to help the region develop its approach.

2. Proposal and justification

2.1 In March 2019 the Department for Transport (DfT) produced a strategy called Future of Mobility: Urban Strategy. This document recognises the impact that technological advances will have and highlights 9 principles that underpin Government's approach to future mobility.

- 2.2** The government recognises that new technology, advances in engineering and new business models could deliver substantial benefits for society, the environment and economy. The DfT's Urban Strategy sets out the approach Government will take to harness the opportunities happening in urban transport and sets out the benefits that they would like to be delivered from urban mobility. However, although technology presents an opportunity for the future of mobility, it is also recognised that if not effectively managed, technological changes could have undesired side effects, such as increasing congestion or reducing sustainable travel.
- 2.3** Transport innovation is being driven by data, advances in artificial intelligence and sensor technology. The Government's Industrial Strategy sets out four Grand Challenges to put the UK at the forefront of global market opportunities in frontier industries, one these is the ambition to become a world leader in shaping the future of mobility. The Government's priorities within the Future of Mobility Grand Challenge are implementing a flexible regulatory framework, supporting industry and local leaders, ensuring Government decision making is robust and continuing established technology specific programmes.
- 2.4** SCR submitted an Expression of Interest (EoI) to the DfT's Future Mobility Zone Fund in May 2019. The fund was established to support the trial of new mobility services, modes and models through the creation of globally significant demonstrators. The area that SCR focussed on was around AMID as this linked to the geography of our Transforming Cities Fund however, our EoI was unsuccessful.
- 2.5** ARUP has been appointed by SCR to produce a think piece on Future Mobility. The aim of this piece of work is to take the national steer presented by DfT's Urban Strategy, and to apply this to a SCR context, highlighting our unique assets and strengths in this field. The outcomes of this work will be used to strengthen any applications to future rounds of Government funding and will also determine SCR's approach to a Future Mobility Implementation Plan.
- 2.6** The first stage of work is underway, and a workshop will take place with stakeholders in early September. The aims of the workshop are to gather evidence of work and projects that are being undertaken by (mainly) private sector partners in the field of future mobility. Findings and recommendations will be presented at the next Transport Board for members to recommend next steps.
- 2.7** Following the workshop, future technological and innovative trends will be identified and emerging areas for collaboration with industry and other stakeholders. This will help SCR to identify where the regions strengths are and in time, help the development of the region's export capabilities in this market.
- 2.8** Board members are invited to identify any particular opportunities to be explored as we develop this activity and any innovative projects, approaches and companies that the SCR should be engaging with.

3. Consideration of alternative approaches

- 3.1** Consideration has been given in recent months to the best approach to operationalising themes that cut across the Transport Plan in particular, Air Quality and Future Mobility. It is felt that these themes warrant specific dedicated approaches underpinned in the first instance by research and development work to be followed by specific implementation plans.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial

There are no direct financial implications arising from this paper. The research work will make recommendations which might have financial implications should they be adopted.

4.2 Legal

There are no direct legal implications to this paper at this stage. The research work will make recommendations which might have legal implications should they be adopted.

4.3 Risk Management

There are no specific risk implications to this paper at this stage. The research work will make recommendations which should they be adopted might require a risk assessment and risk management strategy.

4.4 Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion

The research will consider the potential benefits and risks presented by Future Mobility trends to delivering positive equality, diversity and social inclusion outcomes.

5. Communications

5.1 Depending on the outcomes and recommendations of this work the Board might want to recommend further work to communicate to, or engage with, communities, sectors or businesses in the SCR.

6. Appendices/Annexes

6.1 None

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Background papers used in the preparation of this report are available for inspection at: 11 Broad Street West, Sheffield S1 2BQ

Other sources and references: