



To: The Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3)

Date: 17th January 2018

Subject: Coventry Innovation

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To inform the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) of the various innovative projects that are happening in Coventry

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) are recommended to:
- 1) Consider the information contained in the appendices covering
 - a. The national battery development facility
 - b. Developments in autonomous vehicles
 - c. Progress on light rail and track
 - d. OLEV Ultra Low Emission Taxi Scheme
 - 2) Identify any recommendations for the Cabinet Member

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 Coventry has been successful in being chosen as a locations for several development projects in the area of transport and will enable the city to be at the forefront of innovation.

4 National Battery Manufacturing Development Facility

- 4.1 At their meeting on 5th December 2017, Council agreed to accept the Faraday Challenge funding and act as the accountable body for the National Battery Manufacturing Development Facility.
- 4.2 More and more car manufacturers are announcing their intention to move towards building electric cars, and the demand for batteries will increase sharply over the next ten to twenty years. Currently, expertise in battery development is concentrated in Asia, Germany and the United States, and the UK is lagging behind.
- 4.3 The UK Government announced the Faraday Challenge, part of the Industrial Strategy Fund, during the summer. It aims to fund battery research and development work to ensure that the demand for batteries leads to the creation of jobs here in the UK rather than overseas in battery manufacturing.
- 4.4 One of the strands of the Faraday Challenge aims to bridge the gap between battery research in universities and large-scale battery production by car manufacturers.
- 4.5 The National Battery Manufacturing Development Facility (NBMDF) aims to bridge this gap by providing an environment where universities, SMEs and car manufacturers can collaborate on battery development using state of the art equipment.

- 4.6 The University of Warwick (UoW), Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) and Coventry City Council (CCC) have come together to develop a proposition in response to the Faraday Challenge set out by Government. The bid was submitted earlier in the autumn. The partnership has now got through to the final stage of the bidding process and an announcement on the successful bid is expected imminently from Government. We are confident that Coventry & Warwickshire offers the best solution for Government's aspiration in this area.
- 4.7 It has been estimated that the value of the NBMDF's work could be worth as much as £1bn to the economy, and create 10,000 jobs in the West Midlands.
- 4.8 The Council has significant role in making this happen by bringing its expertise to the partnership. This includes financial management, Government liaison, and a strong knowledge and experience in securing, managing and delivering economic development over many years in both Coventry and the wider sub region. In addition, the Council has proven track record in being the accountable body for successful large scale external funding and investment.
- 4.9 The full report that went to Council can be found at Appendix 1, a briefing note update on progress since can be found at Appendix 2.

5 Developments in Autonomous Vehicles

- 5.1 Appendix 3

6 Progress on Light Rail and Track

- 6.1 Members were circulated an interim briefing note on 21st September 2018 on progress so far on Very Light Rail and Track. The objectives of the project are:
- To create an affordable, 21st century, rail based public transport system for Coventry to enable the city to grow;
 - To create a marketable product that can be produced locally to maximise the economic and employment benefits to Coventry and the region;
 - To further enhance Coventry's growing national reputation as a centre for engineering technology and innovation.
- 6.2 More information on this project can be found at Appendix 4.

7 OLEV Ultra Low Emission Taxi Scheme

- 7.1 Following an item on electric vehicles at their meeting on the 26th July 2017, Members established a task and finish group to look in more detail at electric vehicles. Part of this was the OLEV project. More details can be found at Appendix 5.

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