



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

Date: 5th December 2018

Subject:

Coventry City Council and West Midlands Manufacturing Group: Driving Growth in Partnership

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1** This note details the partnership working between Coventry City Council (CCC) and Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG) which is increasing innovation and productivity, and ensuring the leadership of our region in defining the future of mobility in the UK.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1** The Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) is recommended to support CCC continuing to work with WMG to drive innovation in industry and skills delivery, using the city as a testbed and securing new funding. This involves delivering key projects, largely through the Growth Deal – £131m of capital funding managed by CCC on behalf of Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) – and identifying new opportunities.

3 Information/Background

3.1 World Leading, Industry Relevant R&D

3.1.1 UK Battery Industrialisation Centre (UKBIC)

A consortium of CCC, CWLEP and WMG will establish the UKBIC, a cutting edge manufacturing research facility which helps to transition the UK to become a world leader in the design, development and manufacture of batteries for vehicle electrification. The consortium has secured an £80m grant through the Faraday Challenge – the largest award by Innovate UK in over a decade – with CCC as lead body. Scheduled for launch early 2020, the UKBIC will enable industry, via open access, to scale up and commercialise advanced technologies central to the development of batteries, initially for the automotive sector but with wider application.

Key senior management has been appointed including Managing Director, Jeff Pratt and recruitment is underway for technical expertise. Planning permission has been granted for the 18,000m² facility on land adjoining Rowley Road to the south of the A45 on the outskirts of Coventry and the procurement of specialist equipment has begun.

3.1.2 R&D in the Steel Industry

WMG are in the process of creating a range of facilities and a dedicated support programme for companies in Coventry and Warwickshire to understand every aspect of the

steel process and develop new products. The project has received £1m funding through Growth Deal and will unlock benefits for manufacturing businesses across the region.

3.2 CAV Development and Data Analysis

3.2.1 UKCITE

UK Connected Intelligent Transport Environment (UKCITE) is a project to create the most advanced environment for testing connected and autonomous vehicles (CAV). It involves equipping and testing over 40 miles of urban roads, dual-carriageways and motorways with 'talking car technologies' to establish how these technologies can improve journeys, reduce traffic congestion, and provide entertainment and safety services through better connectivity.

The project is expected is made up of the following consortium members: Visteon Engineering Services Limited, Jaguar Land Rover, Coventry City Council, Coventry University, Highways England Company Ltd, HORIBA MIRA, Huawei Technologies (UK) Co Ltd, Siemens, Vodafone Group Services Ltd and WMG at University of Warwick.

3.2.2 CAV Testbed

Joint project with Transport for West Midlands and numerous technology partners including WMG and Jaguar Land Rover to develop a route linking Coventry, Birmingham and Solihull, centred on the A45, that will be set up as a test route for CAV. This includes roadside technology for monitoring and communicating with the test vehicles allowing performance of CAV technology to be rigorously examined. The installation of the technology will take two years and the CAV routes will be operational for at least eight years after that.

3.2.3 Smart City Mobility Centre

Europe's first multi-million-pound Smart City Mobility Centre will be based at the University of Warwick's Wellesbourne campus. The Centre brings together WMG's research expertise and Jaguar Land Rover's leading research and engineering capabilities to develop driverless capable vehicle testing. This will be in real world conditions alongside a specially designed 5G communications network on the University of Warwick's main campus.

3.2.4 Mobility Data Institute

The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) will receive up to £20 million, subject to approval of a satisfactory business case, to enable WMG to create the UK Mobility Data Institute, a focused research centre to collect, process and analyse transport data generated by the advent of new mobility technologies such as autonomous vehicles and smart charging of electrified vehicles.

3.3 Transport Systems

3.3.1 Very Light Rail (VLR)

VLR is an innovative mode of travel aiming to create an affordable system for medium size towns and cities which is unique and epitomises 21st century travel. It will be a mass transit system using battery powered, autonomous, light-weight vehicles, which is cheaper to construct and cheaper to operate than current systems.

A three-way collaboration between WMG, Transport for West Midlands and CCC is in place for the R&D phase. The project is £57.46m in total comprising £55m WMCA Devolution Deal Funding and £2.46m through Growth Deal. (The Devolution Deal funding includes a £4.33m contribution to Dudley for the Innovation Centre and vehicle/track testing.)

R&D is currently underway and by the end of March 2019 there will be a detailed virtual demonstrator model. Activity is planned to coincide with the 2021 City of Culture programme and the first route in Coventry is planned for December 2024.

3.4 Skills Delivery

3.4.1 WMG Academy for Young Engineers

The WMG Academy offers 14-18 year olds a very different approach to education with working on practical problems and challenges at the heart of the curriculum. Students are offered a career-led education involving work placements, interactive industry activities and visits to businesses. The Academy received £700k through the Growing Places Fund.

3.4.2 WMG Degree Apprenticeship Centre

WMG and CCC are working together to deliver a new facility to increase capacity for higher level skills through degree apprenticeship programmes for existing employees in high growth, advanced manufacturing and engineering businesses in the CWLEP region. The project has been allocated £10m through Growth Deal.

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