**Title of meeting:**      Cabinet

**Date of meeting:**      28 September 2017

**Subject**:      Response to the Economic Development Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Panel's report "Smart Cities: Making Portsmouth a smarter, more sustainable, city"

**Report by:**      The Assistant Director of Culture & City Development

**Wards affected:**      All

**Key decision:**      ~~Yes~~/No

**Full Council decision:**      ~~Yes~~/No

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1. **Summary**

   The Economic Development Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Panel conducted a review into Smart City initiatives already being implemented in the city and explore other initiatives happening elsewhere in the Country.

2. **Purpose of report**

   The purpose of the report is to respond to the Economic Development Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Panel - "Smart Cities: Making Portsmouth a smarter, more sustainable, city".

3. **Recommendations**

   (1) That the Panel is thanked for its work in undertaking the review.

   (2) That the Economic Development Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Panel's recommendations be approved in line with the responses noted in item 4 below.

   (3) That there is a visit arranged by the Assistant Director of Culture and City Development to Bristol to consider some of the initiatives that have been implemented and further consideration be given to how the City develops a Smart City Strategy.

4. **Response to the panel's recommendations**

<u>Recommendation 1</u>: That the Directors regularly report to their Cabinet Member meetings on the progress in embracing Smart City technology and the associated sustainable benefits.   This will include:
• the development of PCC's website and Apps (such as for tourism, contacting housing tenants, parking availability, safe cycling and walking routes, public health messages) and further use of social media (for community engagement and information on licensing and planning applications)
• further use of digital advertising boards (to give key messages including sustainable travel method information)
• the continued rolling-out of solar PV panels on PCC buildings exploring community energy networks,
• Waste management partnership innovation with the contractors
• Consideration of future design of flood defences and other infrastructure to incorporate Smart technology

Response:

The council's website and the My Portsmouth app have been developed as part of the channel shift programme, supported by a newly restructured digital customer team in Community and Communications. The current funding ends in March 2018 and a capital bid is being prepared for submission to support future developments in 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21, including around parking and public health. Social media is already used extensively, to communicate and engage with residents, and to respond to customer enquiries. Social media is also used to gather feedback on consultations, for example the budget consultation. There is potential for this to be expanded across additional consultations, where the subject of the consultation and the target audience lends itself to social media and there is also potential to increase the use of social media to promote planning applications and licensing applications, and other opportunities for residents to get involved. Although social media is free to use, engaging with residents effectively via social media is resource intensive as the dialogue is two-way and responses, which go into the public domain, have to be researched to ensure accuracy and to prevent reputational damage. In order to fully accommodate the recommendations of the scrutiny panel, an additional resource would be needed to support the management of increased social media activity in the digital customer team

It is critical that there is a joined up approach to initiatives across the city and that data and information is shared between directors to ensure that there is a strategic approach to the implementation of Smart City technology and an awareness between directorates and the wider stakeholders in the city of the opportunities Smart cities can realise. Consideration needs to be given to how the different directors share work, data and understanding of how technology can be best used and how the Council ensure that the concept of developing the use of technology to ensure that the built environment is managed in a way that ensures it works effectively and that the Council and others are able to monitor and understand the way the environment is working.

There has been considerable progress in some areas of the Council with, for example, significant work by Transport in harnessing Intelligent Transport technologies to

gain the maximum utility from the transport network. Work is focusing on using technology to increase capacity (through for example upgrading signal technology to more responsive and effective systems, e.g. MOVA, and the recent upgrade of the Traffic Management Centre to a cloud-based system), and using technology to provide residents and visitors with real-time travel information enabling them to make more informed decision making. This will lead to greater numbers of sustainable journey choices, enabling the transport network to support the City's ambitious growth agenda and associated increased demand for travel.

Recommendation 2: That the Assistant Director of Culture and City Development brings together appropriate officers into a vital group to share initiatives, keep abreast of funding opportunities, collaborative approaches and for the group to consider developments in other cities. That the Cabinet endorses a trip to visit Bristol (with representatives from neighbouring councils) to witness a city which is approximately 5 years more advanced in implementing Smart City initiatives. Following the visit a further report be presented to Cabinet identifying findings and giving consideration is given to how the City might develop a Smart City Strategy. Also that participation in the Nexus Bid with the University of Portsmouth be further reviewed for progression.

Response: In order for the city to embrace Smart City concept there is a need for the concept to be embedded within the Council, with a clear understanding of what can be achieved through the use of Smart technology and how different directorates might work together to develop and implement Smart technology across the city and share data to make informed decisions about how the city is functioning.

Recommendation 3: That PCC's Digital Strategy be progressed for accessibility and to enable the necessary infrastructure to be in place for economic growth, for the benefit of residents and visitors.

Response: That the options for providing the infrastructure to support the use of Smart technology be further explored and that every opportunity for the installation of this infrastructure be utilised.

Central Government has recently outlined a new "full fibre and 5G" policy, recognising that first-class digital infrastructure is vital to the economic prosperity of towns, cities and rural areas across the country, and to the UK as a whole

Businesses require a comprehensive digital presence on the internet to grow and succeed, it enables them to become more efficient, reach more customers, and become more engaged with their customers. PCC will work towards City has the IT Infrastructure necessary to embrace and thrive in a Digital epoch, with the provision of super-fast Fibre to the premises, supported by ready access to 4G (and 5G when it becomes available). Through the use of digital technologies we will deliver more accessible, cost effective services across a range of channels and the city for our customers, visitors, established and new businesses, partnership organisations and staff.

Portsmouth will be seeking to become the first Gigabit Commercial Port on the south coast enabling gigabit speed, world class connectivity and dramatically accelerating its digital capabilities.  We are fully engaged with the DCMS and have submitted a bid for funding in response and to the request expression of Interest for inclusion in the Local Full Fibre Network Programme.

PCC's Digital Strategy is due to be published on 1st October 2017.

Recommendation 4: To deliver a sustainable built environment:
• the Director of Public Health should be involved in a discussion to agree what level of development should trigger a health impact assessments, to help promote physical activity

• when reviewing the Local Plan and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, regeneration should be encouraged by  inviting innovative ideas on house design, the use of open spaces and the use of vacant units, as well as ways of collecting and storing data about how the environment is performing.

Response:
Dr Horsley as Director of Public Health commented that there is the need to ensure that impact assessment is designed in from the beginning (ideally from the pre-planning application discussion stage) to make sure that the role of Public Health is facilitative (improving the development offer) rather than one of opposition coming into discussion after plans have been drawn up.

## 5. Background

The Economic Development Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Panel set the objectives noted below.

Objective 1 - To understand how Portsmouth City Council (PCC) is becoming 'smarter' in providing access to information for residents and visitors

Objective 2 - To consider examples from elsewhere of Smart Cities and Future Cities

Objective 3 - To investigate sources of funding for extending Smarter Cities type initiatives

Objective 4 - To review accessibility and skilling issues to enable residents, students, visitors and businesses to access and engage with council services and the provision of digital services

## 6. Reasons for recommendations

To ensure that Portsmouth keeps developing Smart City technology.

**7. Equality impact assessment (EIA)**

This is covered in section 9 of the panel's report.

**8. Legal implications**

This is covered in section 10 the panel's report.

**9. Finance comments**

The budgetary implications are covered in section 11 of the panel's report. Financial implications of supporting future developments will be subject to a successful capital bid.

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Signed by:

**Appendices: EDCL Scrutiny Panel's report on Smart Cities**

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

| Title of document | Location |
|---|---|
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The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by ………………………………… on …………………………………

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Signed by: