

Welcome to the 16<sup>th</sup> issue of the 8th City Update. This edition provides an overview of the wide range of activity taking place across the programme and includes examples of how some of the cities are utilising data-driven solutions in response to the COVID-19 emergency.

The 8<sup>th</sup> City Programme had 26 projects across the cities in Phase 1, with the majority of these now closed and 8 still ongoing. Closure of these projects and working with cities to ensure we capture the outputs and benefits they've delivered has been a key focus for the PMO in recent months.

In addition, the programme sees 20 projects being delivered in Phase 2, with a number of new projects approved in June this year. The range of activity across the programme continues to provide excellent examples of how cities are working to transform the delivery of services.

Collaboration is key to the success of the programme and the PMO will strive to ensure that we

provide opportunities for all seven cities to share information and knowledge, despite the challenging circumstances we are currently operating in.

We are currently working on a refresh of 8th City Knowledge Hub groups to encourage wider use by our project leads and we have re-established our 8<sup>th</sup> City Advisory Group, with new members joining.

COVID-19 has undoubtedly had an impact on programme delivery, but the PMO is working with cities and the Managing Authority to assess this on an ongoing basis. We have recently submitted reports to Scottish Government outlining the anticipated changes to the programme as a result of COVID-19.

We will continue to keep our cities updated and ask that they discuss any difficulties they are facing with the PMO on a regular basis so we can continue to offer support and guidance.

**Nicola McPhee, Programme Manager**



## 2 | PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

In recent years Scotland's cities have jointly developed an ambitious programme of data and digital technology projects via the 'Scotland's 8<sup>th</sup> City – the Smart City' ERDF programme. The 8<sup>th</sup> City programme seeks to enhance Smart City activity to accelerate and transform the delivery of city services and make Scotland's cities more attractive, liveable and resilient.

Running from 2015 to 2022, the 8<sup>th</sup> City programme involves all seven Scottish cities (Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Perth and Stirling) working on an ambitious programme of data and digital technology projects. Programme investment is currently £50.1 million, including ERDF support of £21.1 million and Scottish Cities Alliance Cities Investment Fund of £500,000

In developing projects across the 8<sup>th</sup> City programme, partners are seeking to expand Smart City capabilities and deliver city priorities through improved community engagement, integration of service delivery and innovation.

Collaboration and information sharing are key values underpinning programme development and delivery across the cities – including engagement with international partners (via hosting of delegations, project demonstrations, and other knowledge sharing opportunities).

The 8<sup>th</sup> City programme is structured into Phase 1 (mid-2015 to December 2020) and Phase 2 activity (July 2018 to September 2022).

At August 2020 there are 46 individual projects being delivered by cities across the 8<sup>th</sup> City programme. Of these, 26 are being delivered in Phase 1 and 20 as part of Phase 2. The majority of Phase 1 projects are now complete, with outputs achieved and Project Closure Reports produced or in development.

The impact of COVID-19 on 8<sup>th</sup> City programme is being assessed ongoing, with reports submitted to Scottish Government / Managing Au-

thority on actual or anticipated changes to 8<sup>th</sup> City projects.

8<sup>th</sup> City projects are linked to a range of Smart City domains - or ERDF Operations - including:

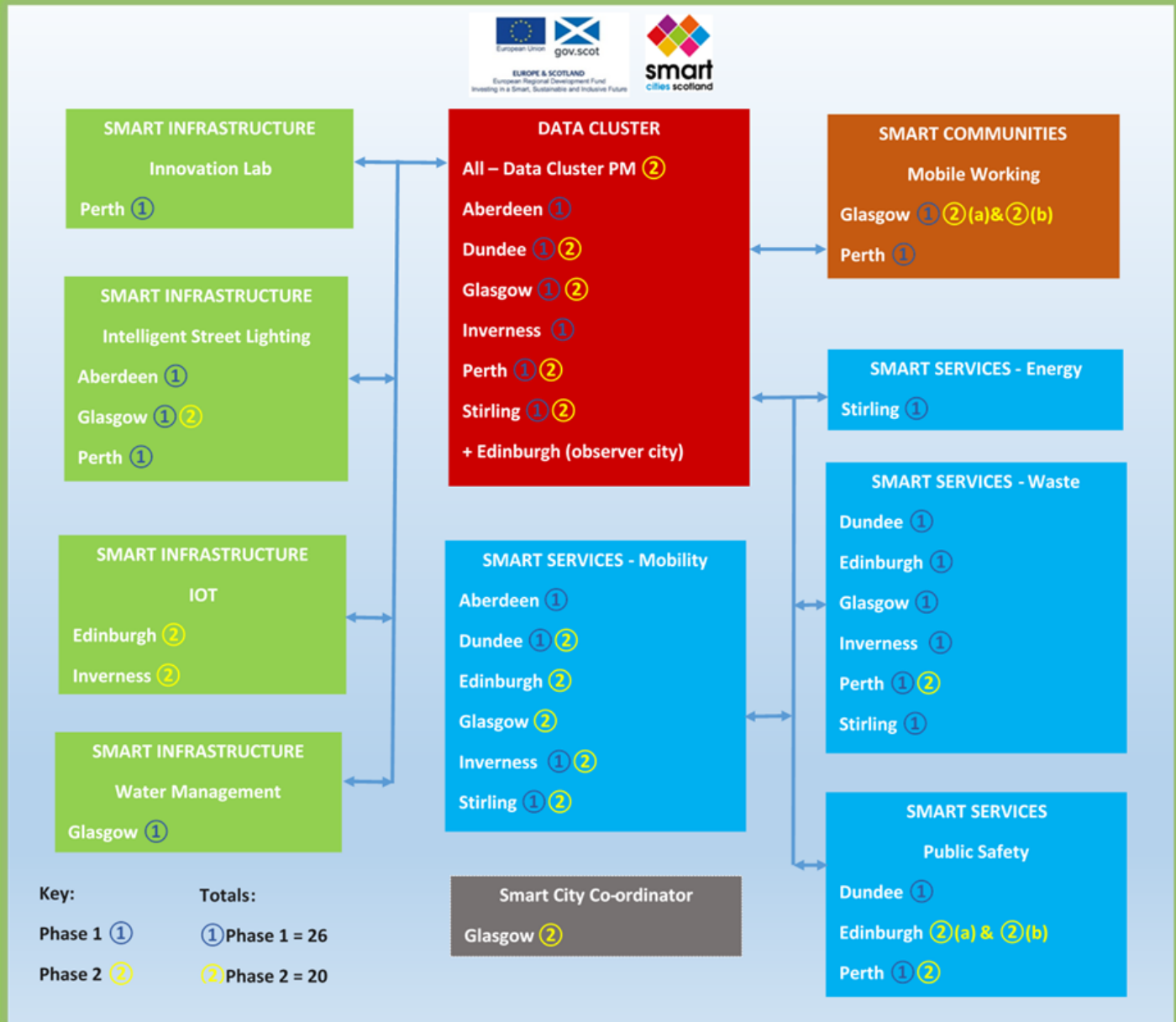
- Open Data
- Smart Communities – Mobile Working
- Smart Services – Energy
- Smart Services – Mobility
- Smart Services – Waste
- Smart Services – Public Safety
- Smart Infrastructure – Innovation Labs
- Smart Infrastructure – Intelligent Street Lighting
- Smart Infrastructure – Water
- Intelligent Infrastructure – Internet of Things (IoT)

The focus on Internet of Things (IoT) activity has been more significant during Phase 2 of the 8<sup>th</sup> City programme. This reflects the greater awareness around a 'system of systems' approach and the deployment of connected assets such as sensors. This activity has been facilitated via the Phase 1 investment in Smart Infrastructure across a number of cities.

The schematic over page shows which cities are delivering projects across these domains - with projects also highlighted as either Phase 1 or Phase 2 activity.

### 3 | 8th CITY PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Schematic showing projects across the 8th City programme



Phase 2 of the 8<sup>th</sup> City programme was approved in July 2018. This has led to the development of 20 projects – with a number characterised as Internet of Things (IoT) or ‘connected assets’ activity. This usefully describes projects outlined by Edinburgh and Inverness which seek to develop and deliver Smart City approaches to issues such as city-centre vehicle congestion, air quality and pollution, water quality, and flooding risk.

A number of Phase 2 projects were proposed on the basis of replicating Phase 1 activity in other cities. This sharing of learning and knowledge is a

core deliverable of the 8<sup>th</sup> City programme. Many projects have produced case studies, blogs, and other communications. Almost forty case studies have been produced across the 8<sup>th</sup> City programme – with all projects encouraged to review and reflect upon delivery and outcomes via the publishing of further cases studies.

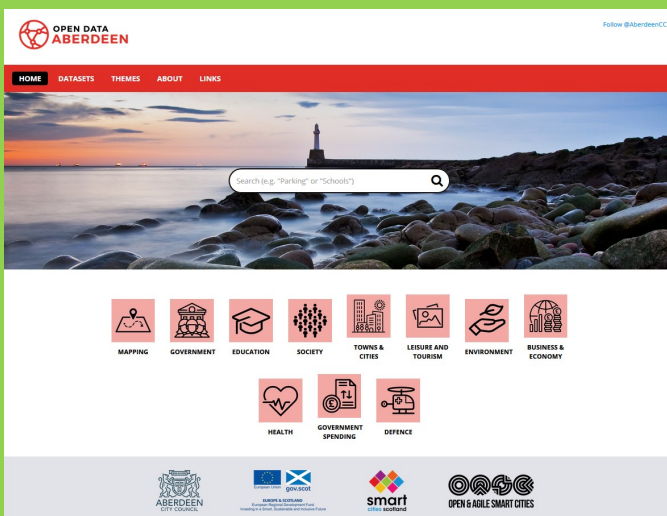
In 2019, Scottish cities were successful in applying (as a collective, under the ‘Smart Cities Scotland’ banner) to the EUROCITIES Sharing Cities international programme. See page 15 for an update on 8th City engagement with Sharing Cities.



## 4 | PROGRAMME OVERVIEW: OPEN DATA

Open Data platforms were developed during 8<sup>th</sup> City Phase 1 in Aberdeen, Dundee, Inverness, Perth, and Stirling, complementing those previously developed, independently from the 8<sup>th</sup> City programme, by Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Investment via the 8<sup>th</sup> City programme has enabled Scottish cities to work collaboratively, supported by the Alliance's Data Cluster Project Manager, to publish data sets opened for innovation. Working via the 8<sup>th</sup> City Data Cluster Steering Group, city representatives have also worked on data publication standards to ensure quality and consistency. Across the seven cities, 475 datasets have been published to date and the cities are working collaboratively on community and capacity building activity to support this work.



*Aberdeen open data platform homepage*

To maximise the use value of these open datasets – as well as other intra-city data made available via investment in 8<sup>th</sup> City projects - Scottish cities are increasingly engaged in data analytics work; this is an area progressed by Glasgow as a Phase 1 project and further developed via Phase 2. Data analytics allows projects to address city challenges through data-driven decision making, combining design, data and innovation to come up with new solutions. These projects aim to enhance

outcomes for citizens by generating new insights and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of city services. Data and data science techniques are key elements of this approach.

In delivering this data analytics work Glasgow has developed a toolkit providing a step-by-step guide on how to use a design led approach for problem solving. The toolkit also provides examples of the various data analytics projects delivered by the Glasgow team; toolkit is available at [www.designfordata.org](http://www.designfordata.org).

Scottish cities have sought to deliver data-driven solutions in response to the COVID-19 emergency. This includes using products, services and expertise developed and supported via the 8<sup>th</sup> City data analytics activity. Glasgow has been able to repurpose a range of products including an App created to monitor staffing levels in real time within critical services such as care.

The team also supported the development of an application to support the COVID business grants payment process for Glasgow, making use of cloud-based data processing techniques. The team has also visualised a series of data to help understand the distribution of vulnerable and shielded people across the city; this data was partly sourced through a data matching process created for an earlier 8<sup>th</sup> City innovative service project. See article on page 13 for more information about this approach.

8<sup>th</sup> City Data Cluster partners are keen to share information and resources in order to promote partnership working and collaboration on use of data in the public sector.

Data Cluster members delivered an event on **'Innovating with Data across the Public Sector: a Scottish Cities Perspective'** for DataFest 2020, the Data Lab's annual event to showcase

## 5 | PROGRAMME OVERVIEW: OPEN DATA (Cont.)

Scotland's leading role in data science and artificial intelligence. In support of this event 8<sup>th</sup> City partners also produced a series of use cases for each city. These are available on the Scottish Cities Alliance website [here](#).

A process report on delivering the DataFest event was also produced - for more information about this report from 8th City PMO at [8th\\_city\\_pmo@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:8th_city_pmo@glasgow.gov.uk).

Image below shows presentation at the 8th City Data Cluster event for DataFest 2020. This event was held at the Perth Creative Exchange Innovation Lab (also supported via ERDF funding as part of the 8th City programme).



## 6 | PROGRAMME OVERVIEW: SMART SERVICES - ENERGY

This project was delivered by Stirling and is now running as business as usual. Core activity includes the installation of a bespoke command centre, dashboards and alerts – involving the centralisation of over 1,500 data streams, 100+ Sensors and 7 data sources across 35 council-owned public buildings in Stirling. These dashboards make it possible to track and monitor things such as energy demand, carbon emissions and renewables performance, amongst other key indicators.

Learning from the delivery of this project has been shared via Project Closure Report and case studies. Dialogue between officers in Stirling and Inverness has also informed the development of a Phase 2 Smart Infrastructure (Buildings Management Service) project by The Highland Council.

Image below shows screengrab of Stirling's Smart Energy project dashboard.



## | PROGRAMME OVERVIEW: SMART SERVICES - PUBLIC SAFETY

**Smart Services – Public Safety** projects in Dundee and Perth are being developed via the 8th City programme. This investment will form the backbone of a consolidated and integrated approach to public safety across Tayside.

The 8<sup>th</sup> City programme has supported the installation of fibre links between Dundee and Perth as well as the introduction of upgraded facilities and enhanced public safety services in both cities.

The Dundee Safety and Alarm Response Centre (SARC) is now live and work continues on implementation of a fully integrated network linking the three Tayside councils (including Angus Council). Both projects are scheduled to run until December 2020.





## 7 | PROGRAMME OVERVIEW: WATER MANAGEMENT

This Glasgow project is pioneering a new digital surface water drainage system to create Europe's first Smart Canal. Introduction of this new system – on a 250 year old canal - will unlock 110 hectares of land across North Glasgow for investment, regeneration and development, paving the way for over 3000 new homes.

The project also contributes to Glasgow's net zero carbon target as it delivers CO<sup>2</sup> savings of 500T per year by reducing the amount of wastewater requiring to be pumped and treated.

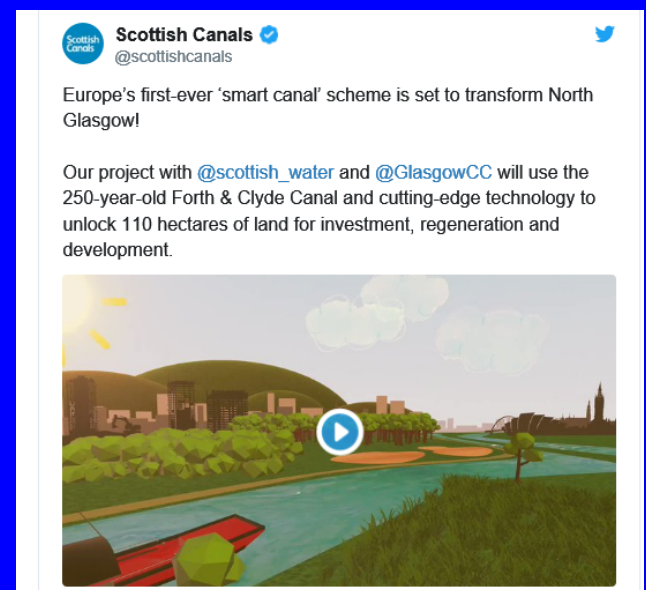
The opportunities created by this project are highlighted via the following Scottish Canals quote:

*"By unlocking the inherent value of Glasgow's Canal and diversifying how we use this publicly-owned heritage asset, we are ensuring it continues to deliver for local people 250 years after it was first built."*

*Creating a dynamic urban canal which uses smart technology to move water safely about the city will not only reduce the flood risk impact of climate*

*change, but act as a catalyst for new investment, jobs, homes and businesses in North Glasgow as well as help to create one of the city's top tourist destinations."*

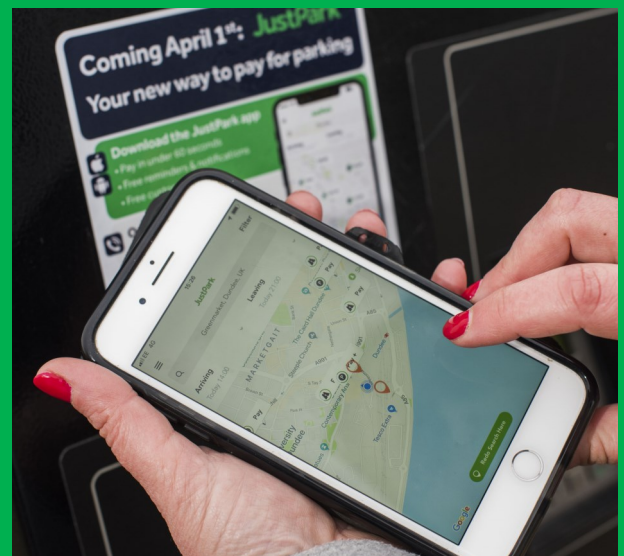
The [Centre of Expertise for Waters](#) also states that the smart canal will provide a variety of regenerative benefits to North Glasgow, from economic growth to environmental improvement.



## | PROGRAMME OVERVIEW: SMART MOBILITY

**Smart Mobility** projects are being delivered across the cities of Aberdeen, Dundee, Inverness, and Stirling. Dundee is exploring new opportunities for increased use of shared vehicles and low carbon travel options. The Dundee ShareMORE project is ERDF supported as part of the 8th City programme and uses digital technology and data to create new Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) business models.

MaaS encourages the sharing of mobility assets, such as cars, bikes and public transport operations in both a community and corporate fleet setting.



## 8 | PROGRAMME OVERVIEW: SMART MOBILITY (Cont.)

Dundee's use of a 'Living Laboratory' process has informed the procurement of innovative companies with service designs ready to test in a live environment, as well as the deployment of technology for city parking infrastructure and data to support MaaS sharing operations. The Dundee MILL (Mobility Innovation Living Lab) is at the very heart of this approach – see [www.themill.scot](http://www.themill.scot).



Dundee is delivering 'ShareMORE' Smart Mobility projects (some on the basis of pilots and trials) related to smart parking, shared fleet services, and advanced mobility services for the general public. Complementing the 8<sup>th</sup> City programme, Dundee has also introduced a public e-bike hire scheme as part of the ShareMORE approach (although this element has not been funded via the 8<sup>th</sup> City programme). ShareMORE is only one strand of Dundee's Smart Mobility ambitions. See recent article [here](#) relating to the MILL and Dundee's wider EV charging infrastructure projects.



Inverness is also investing in a range of urban mobility projects, with the aim of improving transport links, as well as making improvements to the infrastructure within the city itself, in order to help make the Highlands a region where citizens can utilise a number of transport modes to travel throughout the region easily and efficiently. This is underpinned by a scalable and flexible wireless mesh infrastructure that will form the backbone for future digital city services - in particular for Intelligent Transport Services solutions, as well as providing a platform for further Smart Cities projects.

The Stirling Movement Information Platform was completed at the end of 2018, enhancing the city's journey-time monitoring system and expansion of cyclist monitoring with the addition of pedestrian counters. The network provides valuable information to city planners and partners seeking to monitor traffic and travel activity. Outputs from the monitors feed into the Local Transport Strategy (LTS) which can be accessed via Stirling Council's [website](#). Monitoring information taken from the Movement Information Platform is also available for wider use via the Stirling [Open Data Platform](#) - also funded as an 8<sup>th</sup> City project.

Aberdeen's Phase 1 Mobility project also uses sensors to monitor strategic transport routes across the city

Cities have proposed Smart Mobility projects for Phase 2 of the 8<sup>th</sup> City programme. These include EV charging infrastructure in Glasgow, a Road Network Variable Messaging project in Inverness, and a project linked to the planned Low Emissions Zone in Dundee. Edinburgh is investigating how Wayfinding activity can bring together a range of stakeholders to deliver digital wayfinding technologies to promote behaviour change and active travel.



## 9 | PROGRAMME OVERVIEW: SMART COMMUNITIES / MOBILE WORKING

Glasgow and Perth are delivering Phase 1 Mobile Working projects to maximise the efficiency of staff working in the field by:

- Making better use of technology to create a flexible workforce;
- Providing the information they need direct to them in the field; and
- Providing real time information back to the back office system.

The Glasgow Mobile Working project has delivered a range of mobile apps to support Environmental and/or Social Care services, with further apps in development up to the end of 2020 – and further Mobile Working projects scheduled as part of Glasgow's Phase 2 participation.

In delivering Mobile Working solutions, Glasgow and Perth have delivered data-driven efficiencies and service improvements. This creates a culture of (open) data and mobile working led by data analysis and internal information exchange. Staff also report achievements in service convergence, connectivity, transparency and performance.

Mobile Working approaches have other outcomes, including:

- Front line staff up-skilled in new technologies and IT literacy skills;
- Reduced risk to lone workers;
- Increased productivity and lower operating costs;
- Enhanced real time information on service operation; and
- enhanced management information and statistical analysis.

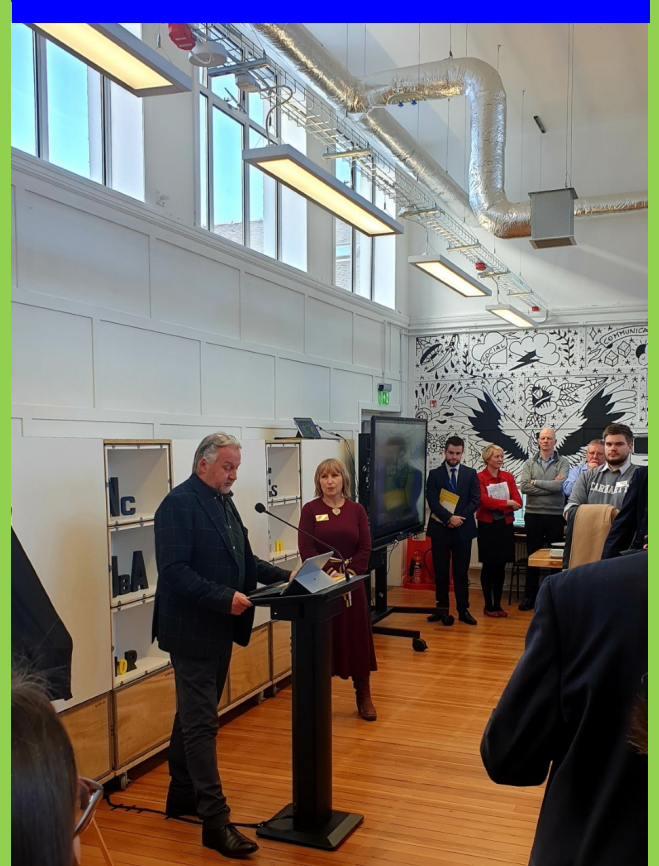
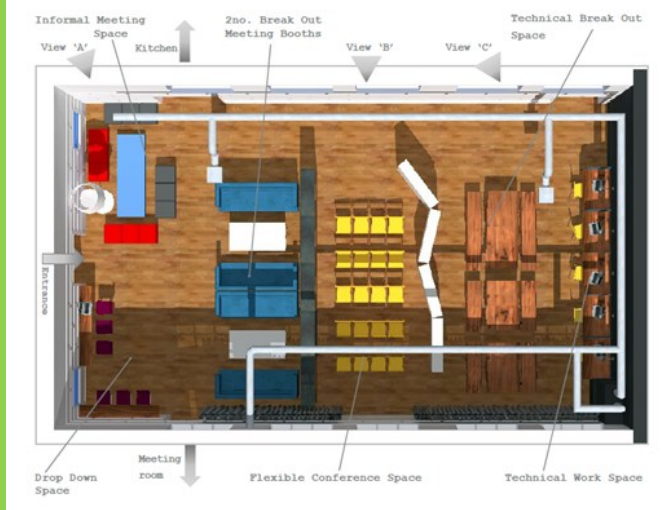
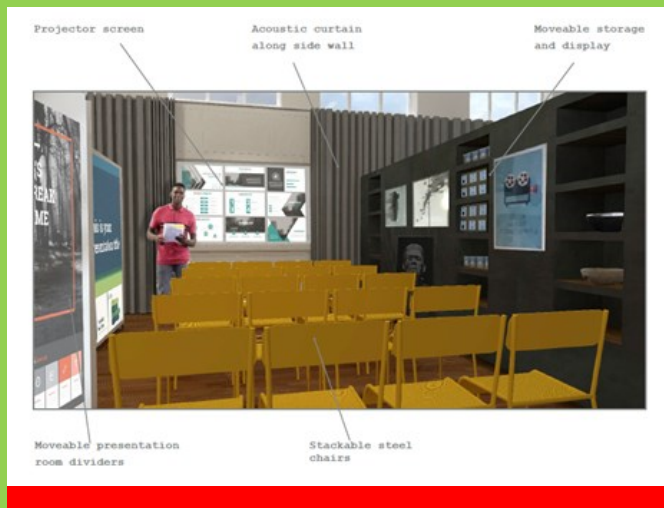
Glasgow has also received ERDF support to deliver Mobile Working projects for Phase 2 of the 8th City programme; these will focus on Digital Citizen and Smart Fleet Management.



## 10 | PROGRAMME OVERVIEW: FAMOUS GROUSE IDEAS CENTRE (FGIC)

Formally launched at the end of February 2020, the ERDF-supported Innovation Lab provides 150m<sup>2</sup> of creative/maker space nested within the newly developed Perth Creative Exchange and aims to make a positive economic, social and cultural impact across the Tay Cities Region.

With revenue support from the Edrington Group the Innovation Lab was rebranded as the Famous Grouse Ideas Centre (FGIC). The FGIC aims to support exceptional business creation, development and growth. This will be achieved through an innovative suite of dedicated support programmes developed by creatives for creatives with an emphasis on innovation.





## 11 | PROGRAMME OVERVIEW: INTELLIGENT STREET LIGHTING (ISL)

**Intelligent Street Lighting (ISL)** systems have been delivered in Aberdeen, Glasgow, and Perth. These combine LED lamps with a Central Management System, supported by wireless communications networks. ISL infrastructure significantly reduces electricity consumption and wastage of energy (with efficiency savings of 70%), and creates connected networks - providing consumption data and opportunities for linked assets to support an Internet of Things (IoT) system.

Components fitted as part of the ISL projects leverage existing lighting infrastructure and are intended to future-proof and flexibly scale up to meet future requirements. For example, in addition to providing a foundation upon which Glasgow can deliver its smart city ambitions, the ISL project is also delivering electricity bill savings of around £200k per year, annual maintenance cost savings of £22k, and CO<sup>2</sup> emission reduction estimated at 700T per year.

In taking forward Phase 2 ISL projects via 8<sup>th</sup> City funding, Glasgow and Inverness are looking at the connected assets aspect of ISL within a Smart Infrastructure context.





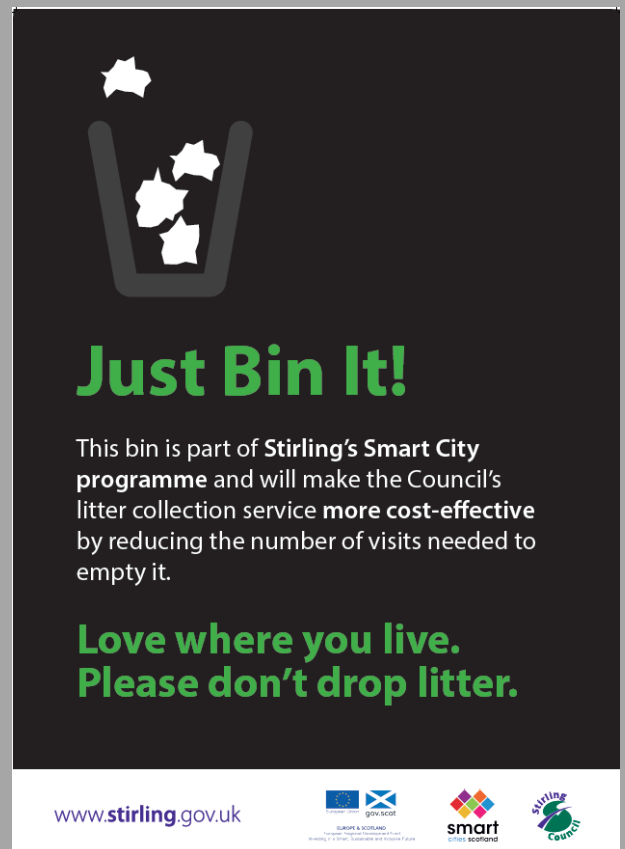
## 12 | PROGRAMME OVERVIEW: SMART WASTE

**Smart Waste** projects in Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Perth, and Stirling are helping cities become more resource-efficient, improving waste collection services, reduce transport costs (and carbon emissions) linked to routing and scheduling, and deliver cleaner streets – improving the appearance of cities and increasing customer satisfaction.

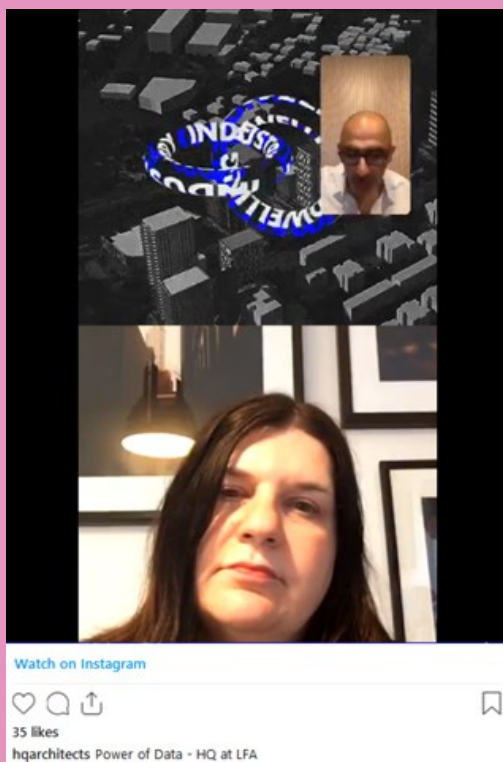
All of the Smart Waste Phase 1 projects have been completed - except for Inverness which is scheduled to run to December 2020. Project closure reports and other supporting documentation has been completed.

Perth is currently delivering a Phase 2 Smart Waste project.

Project Closure Reports and cases studies have been produced to support the sharing of information and learning across the 8th City Smart Waste projects.



## Spreading the word about the Scotland's 8<sup>th</sup> City - the Smart City programme



Recent presentations on the 8<sup>th</sup> City programme have been delivered by Cllr John Alexander, Leader of Dundee City Council and Chair of Scottish Cities Alliance, and by Cllr Susan Aitken, Leader of Glasgow City Council.

Cllr Alexander's input to a webinar on '*Open Science, Open City, Open Society – Interactions between Science, City and Society*' emphasised the collaborative nature of the 8<sup>th</sup> City programme – as did Cllr Aitken's contribution on '*The Future City: Urban Resilience and the Power of Data*' at the London Festival of Architecture in June.

Cllr Aitken also highlighted the value of a data-driven approach to delivering council services. A recording of the discussion between Cllr Aitken and Erez Ella, founding partner of HQ Architects, can be accessed via <https://www.hqa.co.il/home/lfa> or [https://www.instagram.com/tv/CBv6BG2gI5T/?utm\\_source=ig\\_embed](https://www.instagram.com/tv/CBv6BG2gI5T/?utm_source=ig_embed)

## 13 | A Data Driven Response to COVID-19



Like all local authorities across Scotland, Glasgow City Council had to quickly determine how to respond to the building COVID-19 emergency during spring 2020; in particular, how can the Council quickly and effectively adapt or introduce services that protect the most vulnerable residents and businesses. The Council took a data driven response as much as possible in identifying and amending its services, and in particular understanding who our vulnerable people were and what services they required.

Some of the infrastructure, skills and knowledge called upon in the data driven response already existed thanks in part to the investment and participation in the ERDF 8<sup>th</sup> City programme, including the Data Analytics project delivered during Phase 1 of the programme.

For example, work previously undertaken by Council data scientists to develop data matching skills to identify those eligible for school age benefits was adapted to help identify city residents at greater risk from the potential impact of COVID, either as a result of health, or other factors such as being isolated, disabled or having low incomes. A response team was able to adapt the previous approach and generate very quickly a list of those who require shielding and access to additional services.

Secondly, a team of visualisation specialists were able to integrate a range of data into maps

and dashboards that indicated the places of greatest vulnerability in the city, drawing upon data dashboard prototypes initiated via an earlier project supported through the 8<sup>th</sup> City programme outputs were shared with a variety of services to help inform where they focused their own resources.

Thirdly, data specialists were able to follow the blueprint of a data driven App developed as part of the ERDF data analytics Phase 2 project, to support the tracking and deployment of key staff within the Council. The 'staffing app' enabled service heads to manage in real time the deployment of staff to business critical areas including care and cleansing, accounting for the disruptions caused by staff having to isolate or be absent due to sickness.

Lastly, the Council made use of cloud computing tools (using MS Azure) and data integration techniques to process data relating to the payment of business grants to firms in Glasgow that had to cease trading due to COVID-19. The Council was able to use data science techniques to identify and make timely payment to thousands of businesses that had applied to the UK national COVID-19 business grant fund that was to be administered at a local level.

**Stephen Sprott, Strategic Innovation & Technology  
Glasgow City Council**



Earth Overshoot Day marks the date when humanity's demand for ecological resources and services in a given year exceeds what Earth can regenerate in that year. Earth Overshoot Day 2020 took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> August; this was three weeks later than 2019 due to the social, environmental and economic impact of COVID-19, but that is not a sustainable long term solution.

In deciding the date each year of Earth Overshoot Day, the Global Footprint Network calculates the number of days that Earth's biocapacity can provide for humanity's Ecological Footprint, as explained [here](#). Ecological Footprint accounting measures the *demand* on and *supply* of nature, and a key factor to be considered in this is the production of (and the ability to absorb) carbon emissions.

The 8<sup>th</sup> City programme is funded as a 'Sustainable Growth' Strategic Intervention (SI) within the 2014-2020 ERDF operational programme and Low carbon activity is threaded throughout 8<sup>th</sup> City projects. The programme is aligned with the Green Infrastructure SI and the Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund SI in support of Scottish Government's policy action of 'Ensuring our communities are healthy and sustainable'.

In working towards this policy action, the 8<sup>th</sup> City programme has the following strategic aims:

- use new technologies and data to improve sustainability, resilience and service efficiency across all Scottish cities;
- deliver priorities through innovation, integration of service delivery and improved community engagement;
- address urban challenges, including issues

such as air quality, energy use in buildings, transport, light and waste; and

- develop data platforms to develop other 'data driven' solutions to respond to specific challenges facing Scottish cities.

Programme aims support Scottish Government targets to reduce emissions of all greenhouse gases to net-zero by 2045 at the latest (with interim targets for reductions of at least 56% by 2020, 75% by 2030, and 90% by 2040. Examples of ways in which 8<sup>th</sup> City projects contribute to this ambition include:

**Smart Mobility:** Dundee's focus on Mobility as a Service activity (reducing the need for private vehicle ownership and supporting public transport and active travel); Aberdeen, Inverness and Stirling have deployed vehicle monitoring infrastructure to reduce congestion and make travel more efficient. Similar activity is planned in Edinburgh for Phase 2.

**Smart Waste:** Bin sensors enable responsive and more efficient collection (including solar-powered Compactor bins) - meaning less waste going to Landfill; fewer journeys made due to data-led routing and scheduling of collection services.

**Smart Energy:** Stirling Council's deployment of energy dashboards to track and monitor energy demand, carbon emissions and renewables performance across 35 key Council sites.

**Intelligent Street Lighting (ISL):** 8th City projects in Aberdeen, Glasgow, Inverness and Perth are using LED lamps with centralised management systems to achieve efficiency savings of 70%. Glasgow reports CO<sup>2</sup> reduction of approx. 700T per year.

**Smart Water:** The Smart Canal project being delivered by Glasgow delivers CO<sup>2</sup> savings of 500T per year by reducing the amount of wastewater requiring to be pumped and treated.

These low carbon outcomes are just some of the environmental sustainability benefits being delivered by projects across the 8<sup>th</sup> City programme. Further opportunities will be sought to ensure Phase 2 projects deliver in this area and support the over-arching outcomes in Scotland's National Performance Framework.

**Stephen Birrell, Programme Officer, 8th City PMO**



## 8th City Data Cluster

The implementation of quality data standards to enhance the usability and interoperability of published data has always been a key component of the 8th City Data Cluster's work. To that end, the Cluster has been coordinating with the Scottish Government's Data Standards team since the inception of the 8th City Programme to ensure that best practice was being followed throughout.

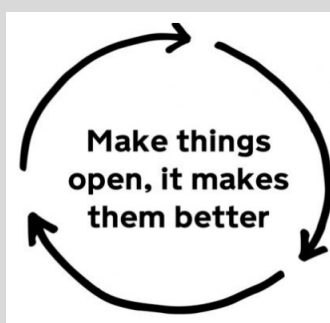
In late June, the Data Cluster was invited to contribute to a workshop hosted by the Scottish Government and facilitated by Anderson Solutions, exploring the challenges and opportunities around the widespread adoption of data standards.

Representatives from the 8th City Data Cluster joined the workshop with other Scottish Local Governments to provide their own perspective around standards. This was a fantastic opportunity for the Cluster and others to share prior experience - including the lessons learned from the implementation of the INSPIRE regulations around spatial data.

A key finding of the workshop was that while there was a broad agreement of the importance of having a robust national initiative around data standards amongst the participants, a key area of work needed to facilitate this would be top-down and bottom-up engagement at all public sector organisations.

As a result of the workshop, the Data Cluster Steering Group is working with the Scottish Government to identify opportunities to act as pilot areas going forward. Further updates will be provided on this work ongoing.

**Doug Young, Data Cluster Project Manager**



## Sharing Cities



In 2019, Scottish cities were successful in applying (as a collective, under the 'Smart Cities Scotland' banner) to the EURO CITIES Sharing Cities international programme - a Horizon 2020 research and innovation initiative delivering *"a proving ground for a better, common approach to making smart cities a reality."*

Sharing Cities looks at ten Smart City domains (of which five relate to Smart Mobility actions). Aberdeen, Dundee and Perth are currently engaged in Sharing Cities work which would lead to the development of Smart City actions and action plans.

The 8th City Data Cluster is also seeking to link with Sharing Cities in relation to information sharing on the development and use of Urban Sharing Platforms.



### Smart City of the Year 2020

**Congratulations to Dundee and Edinburgh for their selection on the Digital Leaders' shortlist of the ten top Smart Cities of the Year.**

**shortlist of the ten top Smart Cities of the Year.**

A public vote will decide the top 3 finalists and the winner announced at the Digital Leaders 100 awards ceremony in October. Good luck to both!



### Replacement for European Structural & Investment Funds Post-EU Exit in Scotland: consultation report

In June the Future Funding Team published its [findings report](#) from the consultation into the Replacement of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) in Scotland Post-EU Exit.

In total, 171 organisations (including 8th City PMO, Scottish Cities Alliance, and Scottish cities) were represented in the consultation process.

The consultation report pulls together the findings from the various engagement exercises and offers insights into the needs and wishes of respondents. Some of the key findings include:

- The core principles, aims and objectives should be broadly similar to previous ESIF programmes but expanded to include wider social objectives
- Recognising the inherent differences between Scotland's (and its regional) economy, and other parts of the UK as well as regional disparities within Scotland
- The UK Industrial Strategy was frequently considered to have too narrow a focus on economic outcomes such as productivity, and EU Cohesion Policy too broad
- Calls for any replacement fund to be significantly less bureaucratic and burdensome, and more proportionate to the level of investment sought
- Awareness of the various post Covid-19 support schemes emerging from UK and Scottish Government and steps required to ensure compliance but not duplication.

The report will help guide the Scottish Government's approach to proposals for the replacement fund when they are brought forward by the UK Government.

### Impact of COVID-19 on ESIF programme delivery

The Managing Authority has added a short section to the National Rules to remind Lead Partners of their responsibilities and suggested actions in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The updated document can be viewed on the Scottish Government ESIF website: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/esif-eligibility-expenditure/>

This change to the National Rules does not materially affect ongoing activity by Lead Partners or Delivery Agents: It is required as a result of the European Commission's publication of the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII) and CRII+ regulations. It will allow Scottish Government to introduce new activity to respond specifically to the challenges that COVID-19 has created in Scotland.

*Info above adapted from ESIF blog site and used under the terms of Open Government Licence v3.0*



With almost 50 projects ranged across Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the 8<sup>th</sup> City programme - and an ongoing commitment to delivering projects which are open, scalable, inter-operable and replicable -

there is a real need to ensure that partners can easily and effectively share information and learning. To support this activity PMO has recently reviewed and restructured the 8th City programme's presence on Knowledge Hub. This will lead to a single 'Scotland's 8th City - the Smart City' Khub group (rather than the nine previous groups structured on the basis of ERDF Operations) and has potential to support wide programme engagement across the Scottish Public Service Network. Invites will be sent shortly to group members (both existing and new). For more information contact Stephen Birrell at 8th City PMO.



### Shift+Ctrl: The Scottish public and the tech revolution

Published in July 2020, this Nesta report presents research into how the Scottish public feels about the new and emerging technologies that are increasingly shaping our world.

<https://www.nesta.org.uk/report/shiftctrl-scottish-public-and-tech-revolution/>

---

### Going Green: Preparing the UK workforce for the transition to a net-zero economy



To tackle the climate crisis, the UK Government has set a target of net-zero greenhouse gases by 2050. To achieve this target, a major transformation is required to prepare sectors and workers for the green economy.

This report analyses the scale of the challenge and considers how sectors can adapt to avoid unemployment through the transition and ensure people are reskilled to do a 'green job'.

[www.nesta.org.uk/report/going-green-preparing-uk-workforce-transition-net-zero-economy/](https://www.nesta.org.uk/report/going-green-preparing-uk-workforce-transition-net-zero-economy/)

### Nesta Covid19 report

#### Innovation after lockdown: using innovation to build a more balanced, resilient economy



This report discusses the importance of innovation in Britain's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

It looks at the challenges for the UK innovation system including: addressing low productivity and pay; spreading the innovation economy across the country; directing innovation towards big societal challenges; building economic and social resilience; and building public support for a high-tech economy.

Report at: <http://ow.ly/owtq30qSzKm>

---



### Webinar: EUROCITIES webinar series on smart city solutions\*:



Cities account for about 65% of global energy demand. The generation and consumption of energy poses challenges for urban areas: energy poverty, network reinforcement costs associated with increased electrification, and load balancing.

The Sustainable Energy Management System (SEMS) is a modular system which centralises information from, and control over, many local energy systems and devices. The SEMS integrates heat, power, transport, and the built environment, combining data connectivity and the internet of things to optimise energy systems and strategies. The SEMS helps to process data inputs in real time; improving decision making, reducing system inefficiencies, and delivering financial, social and environmental benefits.

This webinar will explore its implementation through two case studies from the lighthouse cities of London (Greenwich) and Milan. Then, some tools for replication, scale-up and implementation in other cities will be presented.

The webinar will be accessible online; practical details on how to join the webinar will be sent in due time to all members that registered for the event. Register [here](#).

*\*The series will present the smart cities measures that have been implemented in lighthouse cities of Lisbon, London and Milan as part of the Sharing Cities project. Other webinars of the series are available [here](#).*

### Webinar: Connected Places Catapult

#### **Level-up lessons from Belfast and beyond**

17th September // 4pm - 5pm

Deborah Colville, City Innovation Manager & Head of Smart Belfast Programme will share her story in supporting Belfast in winning a City Deal and the progress the region has made since the deal was agreed. Webinar will also explore what lessons on digital innovation strategies other regions could learn when building their own plans. Register for free [here >>](#)

---

**Digital Leaders Week** 2020 takes place from 12th to 16th October.

Digital Leaders is a global initiative that has created a shared professional space for leaders from different sectors promoting effective, long-term digital transformation and working to promote economic growth, increase social well-being and narrow social gaps.

This follows on from an event in June this year when Digital Leaders held a 'Virtual Summit' offering 130 sessions involving 200 speakers on leadership and digital transformation.

---

**Digital Scotland 2020** - 1st December 2020,

## FutureScot

*Digital Scotland 2020* is FutureScot's flagship annual conference for public sector leaders engaged in transforming public services and delivering Scotland's National Performance Framework Goals. The conference includes a Smart City element and will show how new approaches to service design and delivery are combining with emerging technologies, bringing about real change in the way our citizens interact with government.

---