

Welcome to the 17th issue of the 8th City Update. In addition to providing an overview of activity across the programme, this issue includes articles on Aberdeen's Smart City Strategy and the work being delivered under each of its 6 key themes and the 8th City Programme's Public Safety Operations, as well as an overview of the revised work plan for the 8th City Data Cluster.

With the majority of Phase 1 projects now complete, the programme is already demonstrating tangible results, and as we move into delivery of a wide range of Phase 2 projects, we look forward to sharing more information about how they're progressing.

This is our last update of 2020 - a year that has brought significant challenges for all of us.

So, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the delivery of our programme for your continued commitment, even under such difficult circumstances.

Finally, I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas when it arrives, even if it is a little different from the norm this year!

Nicola McPhee, Programme Manager



2 | PROGRAMME UPDATE

The 'Scotland's 8th City – the Smart City' ERDF programme supports 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 8th 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 almost £50 million, including ERDF support of £20.5 million and Scottish Cities Alliance Cities Investment Fund of £500,000.

8th City projects 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 programme is structured into Phase 1 (mid-2015 to December 2020) and Phase 2 activity (July 2018 to September 2022). The majority of Phase 1 projects are now complete, with outputs achieved, information shared, and Project Closure Reports produced or in development.

The impact of COVID-19 on 8th City programme is being assessed ongoing, with reports submitted to Scottish Government / Managing Authority on actual or anticipated changes to 8th City projects.

The range of Smart City projects is shown in the schematic on page 7 which shows which cities are delivering projects across the 8th City programme - with projects also highlighted as either Phase 1 or Phase 2 activity.

With just under two years to go until programme closure it is perhaps worth outlining some of the outcomes and benefits linked to 8th City Phase 1 projects and anticipated for Phase 2 projects. These include:

Open Data platforms in Aberdeen, Dundee, Inverness, Perth, and Stirling, complementing those already developed by Edinburgh and Glasgow. There is real value in all seven cities having platforms in place to make data available for use in developing new products and services. There are currently 476 open data sets on the platforms provided by Scottish cities – with some data sets being viewed thousands of times.

The open data projects are starting to deliver real outcomes for citizens and realise efficiency savings for cities. For example, Glasgow's data matching project for auto entitlement to clothing grants identified an additional 5,500 children eligible for this - equating to £286,000 additional income. Overall, 20,000 children in Glasgow now automatically receive payments worth £2.2 million without any input from parents or council staff including children of parents from the lowest income levels.

Along with the other cities working as part the 8th City Data Cluster, Glasgow is delivering data-driven responses to the COVID19 emergency, using products, services and expertise developed and supported via Phase 1 ERDF Data Analytics activity. A recent case study has highlighted how the process undertaken by data scientists and business analysts in Glasgow had significant success in speeding up the volume of business grant applications that could be processed and payments made to Glasgow businesses; the backlog of applications was largely cleared during May/June 2020 and over £88m in grants was paid to small businesses – keeping them in business and able to contribute to the economy as lockdown measures were eased.

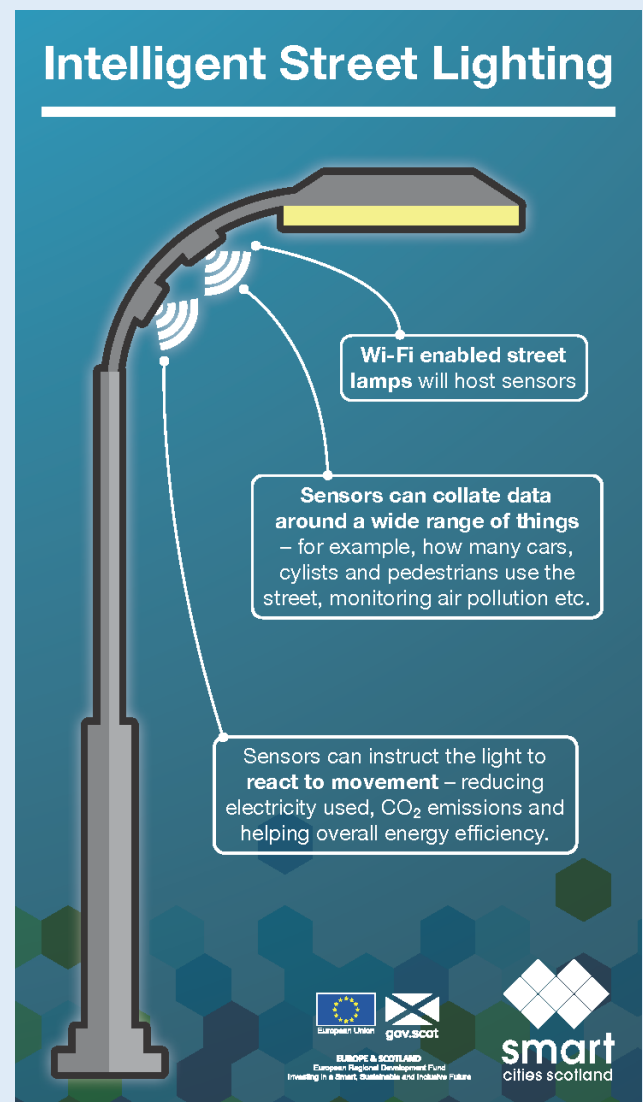
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3 | PROGRAMME UPDATE: INTELLIGENT STREET LIGHTING & SMART ENERGY

Intelligent Street Lighting (ISL) systems in Aberdeen, Glasgow, and Perth combined LED lighting with a Central Management System (CMS), supported by wireless communication networks. This ISL infrastructure is significantly reducing electricity consumption and wastage of energy (with efficiency savings of 70%), and is creating connected networks - providing consumption data and opportunities for linked assets to support an Internet of Things (IoT) system. The migration of street lighting infrastructure to intelligent street lighting marks a major paradigm shift in the infrastructure of the city. It has potential to transform street lighting columns from being single-purpose nodes that are used to light streets, to multi-functional connected nodes within a city-wide network that provides a range of digital services.

For Glasgow, the ISL project is delivering annual benefits including:

- Electricity bill savings of around £230k pa.
- Reduced CO² emissions of 700T pa.
- Maintenance cost savings of £22,067 pa.
- Reduction in calls to report lighting issues.
- An improved City lighting service.
- A foundation upon which GCC can further deliver its Smart City ambition.



Smart Energy: This was delivered by Stirling Council and was one of four projects delivered by the city in Phase 1 of the 8th City ERDF programme. This project enables data generated from energy monitoring assets to be captured on a central management platform – The Energy Hub. This facilitates access to meaningful data - with resulting development of reliable predictions on future energy consumption, decrease in emissions and associated cost reductions.

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 energy demand, carbon emissions and renewables performance, and other indicators.

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4 | PROGRAMME UPDATE: SMART MOBILITY

Smart Mobility projects are being delivered across a number of Scottish cities, with installation of the **Stirling** Movement Information Platform completed at the end of 2018. This involves enhancement of Stirling's journey-time monitoring system and expansion of cyclist monitoring with the addition of pedestrian counters. Tracking the number of pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles assists transport planning and monitoring of any changes to travel mode share for each route in response to infrastructure projects.

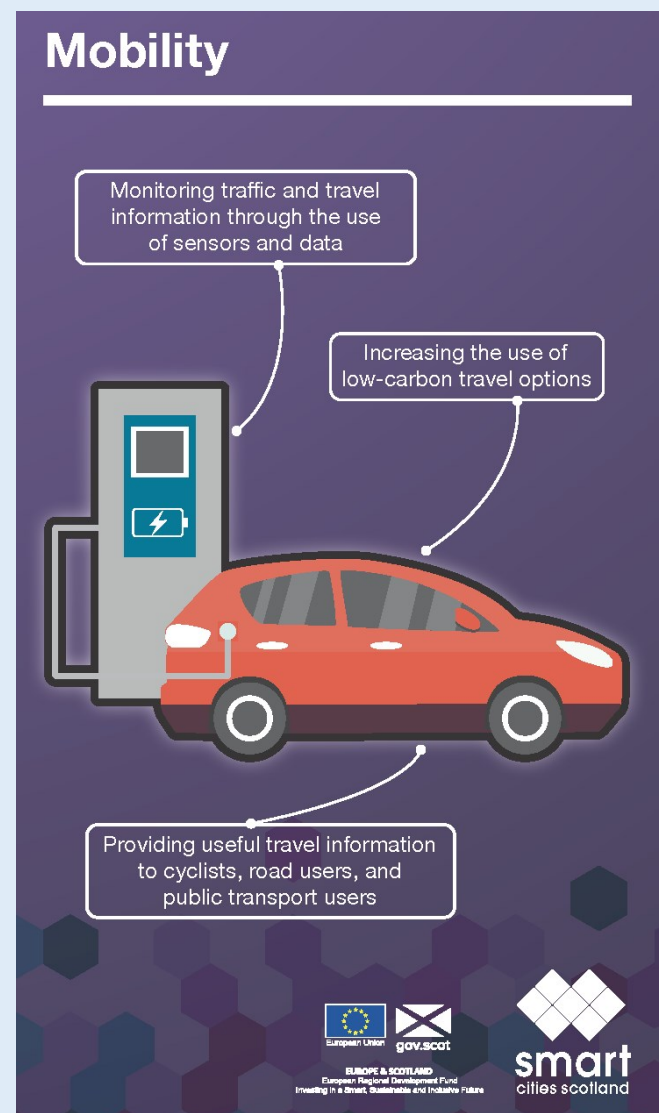
Inverness is also investing in a range of urban transport monitoring projects and **Dundee** is exploring new opportunities for increased use of shared vehicles and low carbon travel.

Dundee's Smart Mobility project has helped to establish the Mobility Innovation Living Lab (The MILL) as an international innovation centre, making Dundee a place for innovators to come and test exciting new transport services and technologies. The first wave of ERDF-supported projects to be delivered by The MILL come under the heading of ShareMORE (Shared Mobility and Resource Efficiency). The MILL is developing, testing and validating these smart mobility products and Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) business models in a way that can be tailored to the specific needs of Dundee citizens, then up-scaled for use in other Scottish cities and further afield.

ShareMORE innovative services include: Car club back to zone pilot; Community minibuses pilot; Parking predictive availability; EV pre-booking; and Friendly Enforcement (Parking). Associated development work also took place on the e-bike scheme pilot, which complements Dundee's wider Smart Mobility initiatives (but not funded via the 8th City ERDF programme).

Further innovations planned as Phase 2 activity at The Dundee MILL will focus on reducing the environmental impacts of transport, addressing growing concerns about the rising levels of carbon emissions and air pollution.

Inverness, in partnership with Hi-Trans, is 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. A Phase 2 project is in development and will link ferry services and roadside VMS information signage.



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5 | PROGRAMME UPDATE: SMART WASTE, SMART CANAL, & INNOVATION LAB

The development of Phase 1 **Smart Waste** services in **Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Perth, and Stirling** has included sensor-based and data-led improvements to a range of waste services - helping cities become more resource-efficient. This has led to improved waste collection strategies, reduced transport costs (and carbon emissions) linked to routing and scheduling, and supported the delivery of cleaner streets and public spaces.

Waste services are generally high cost, requiring significant deployment of staff and resources - and subject to close scrutiny by communities, politicians and the media. The 8th City projects in these six cities have used data and innovation to support effective and efficient waste management solutions. Perth is continuing with a Smart Waste project in Phase 2.



Smart Infrastructure – Water Management: this Glasgow ‘Smart Canal’ project is pioneering a new digital surface water drainage system to create Europe’s first Smart Canal. Introduction of this new system – integrating predictive weather and sensor technology on a 250 year old canal – will trigger a lowering of the canal water level to create capacity for receiving surface water run-off. This ability to address flood risk at key sites will unlock 110 hectares across North Glasgow for investment, regeneration and development, paving the way for over 3000 new homes – as envisioned in the North Glasgow Strategic Development Framework (2020).

The Glasgow Smart Infrastructure – Water Management project was shortlisted for an award at the Smart Cities UK annual conference which took place in London early 2020.

Smart Infrastructure - Innovation Lab: This project is nested within the newly developed ‘Perth Creative Exchange’ - a £4.25m creative hub for artists, makers, creative industry professionals and the general public. The innovation lab is a £650k project - of which £250,000 is ERDF and £100,000 allocated via the SCA Cities Investment Fund. The project also secured sponsorship support, leading to its re-branding as the ‘Famous Grouse Ideas Centre’ (FGIC).

Occupying 150m² of space within Creative Exchange, the FGIC aims to make a positive economic, social and cultural impact not only in Perth but across the Tay Cities Region. At its launch event in February 2020, Perth and Kinross Council Provost Dennis Melloy noted that not only has Perth Creative Exchange attracted resident creative people from across Scotland but that the facility was already fully let and expected to support 66 full-time equivalent jobs and generate wage earnings of just under one million pounds per annum across the local economy.

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6 | PROGRAMME UPDATE: MOBILE WORKING & PUBLIC SAFETY

Smart Communities – Mobile Working:

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

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

The Perth Mobile Working project was also short-listed for an award at the Smart Cities UK annual conference 2020.

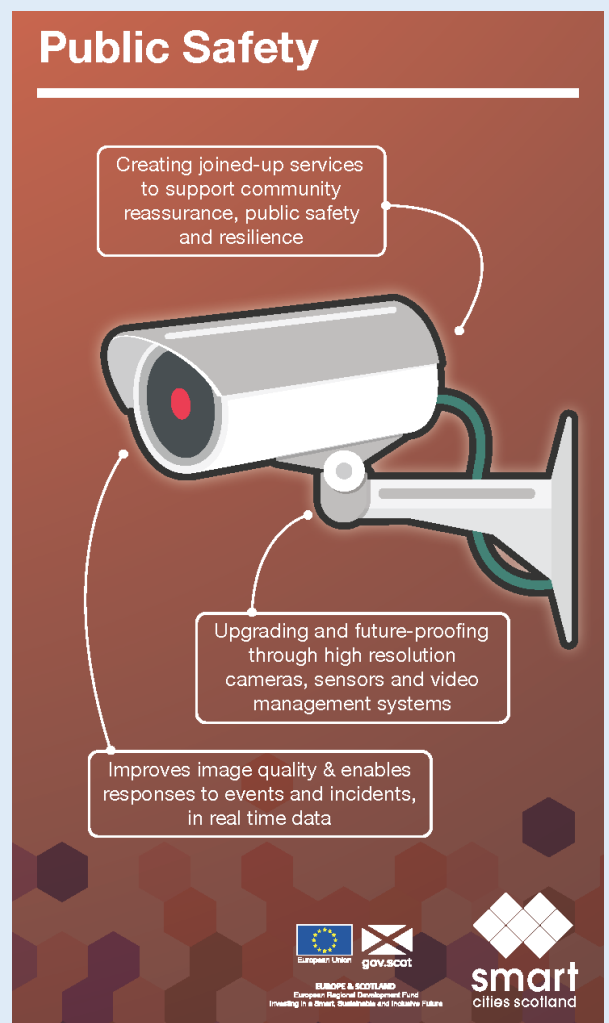
The Glasgow Mobile Working project has delivered an extensive range of mobile apps to support environmental and social care services with staff being trained and fully supported to implement these. Key outcomes of this project include:

- **Enhanced service delivery:** Reduced staff travel time; higher productivity – with more capacity to stay working out in the field; increased employee and customer satisfaction; and reduction in customer complaints.
- **Faster response times:** 90% of Bulk Uplift requests completed within 10 days rather than the 28 days target; number of requests outstanding reduced by 90% – resulting in a 60% reduction in complaints.
- **Resource management:** Transport app has released capacity by 20%, providing opportunities to reallocate resources.
- **Reduced administration:** Removing need to produce and process printed material has reduced admin costs, reduced carbon emission, and reduced carbon footprint.
- **Data accessibility:** Data captured provides management information – leading to opportunities for service review and identification of service improvements.
- **Lone worker safety:** Improved communications around staff locations (and issue of alerts when scheduled communication isn't received) has made 2,700 home carers safer.

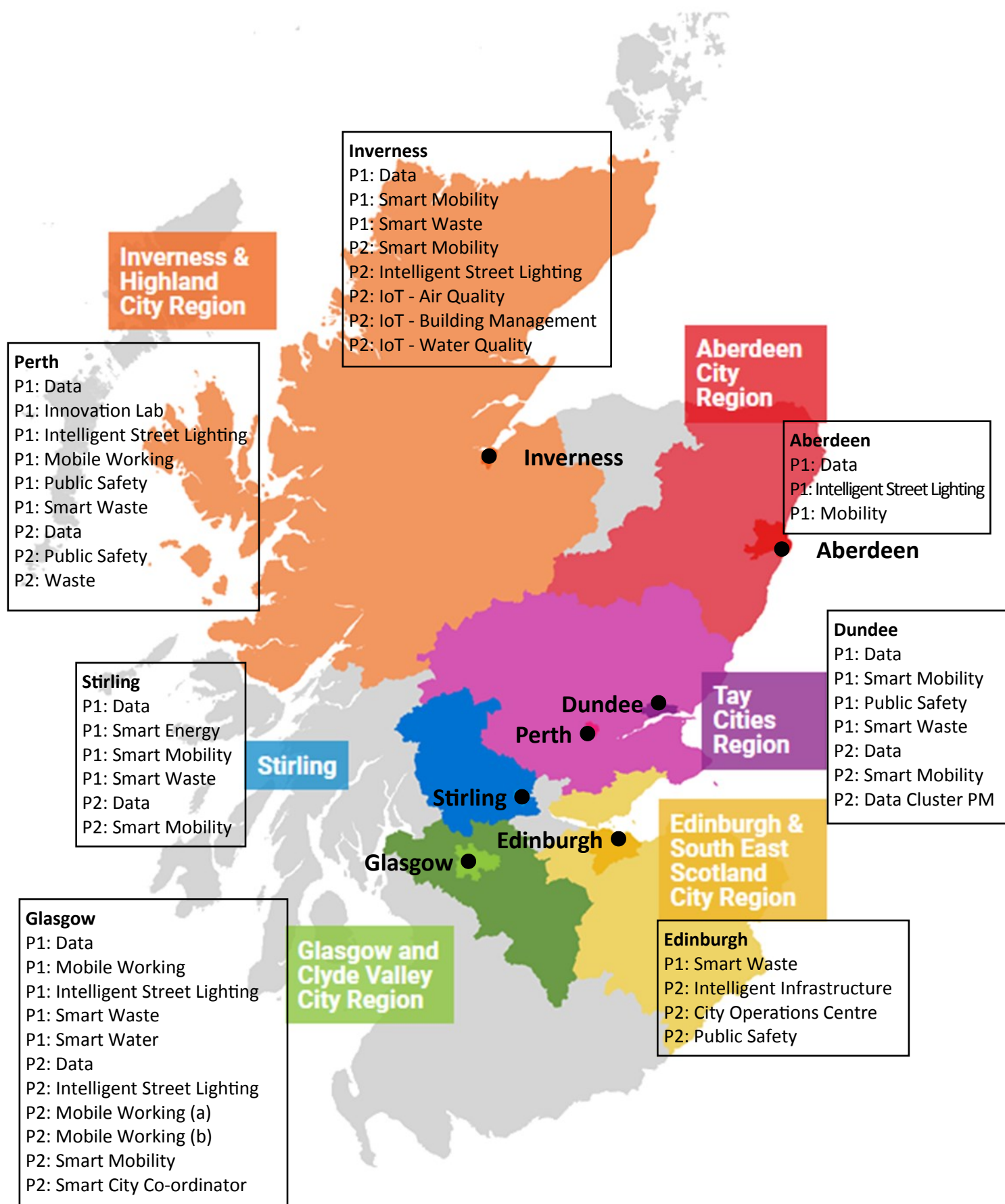
Glasgow and Perth have shared information on their approaches to Mobile Working, including stakeholder 'show and tell' events. Glasgow has also produced a Business Engagement Toolkit on project processes and development.

Glasgow is progressing further Mobile Working projects for Phase 2 of the 8th City programme; these will include a focus on services in relation to fleet and asset management.

Public Safety: Dundee and Perth have delivered integrated operations centres for 8th City Phase 1 and Edinburgh has secured ERDF support for developing 8th City Phase 2 projects for Public Safety and City Operations. These projects are delivering optimised resources and joined-up services to support community reassurance, public safety and resilience. Please see 'Public Safety and Smart Cities' article on pages 10-11 for more info about these city projects.



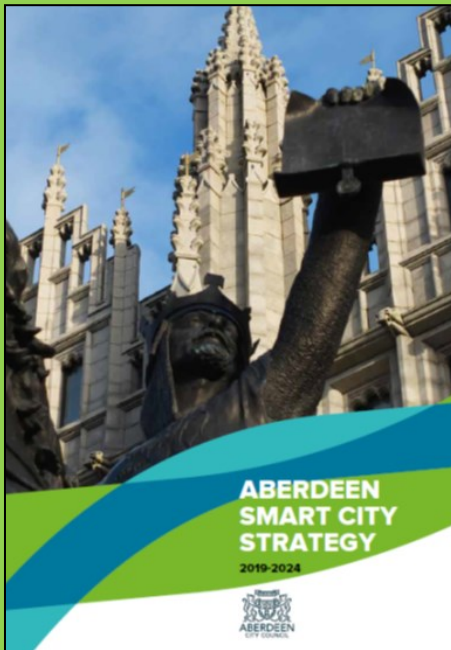
7 | 8th CITY PROGRAMME SCHEMATIC



8 | CITIES UPDATE: ABERDEEN

Aberdeen recently adopted its Smart City Strategy & Action Plan. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) notes that *“We're proud of our beautiful city and, as a Council, we want to ensure its sustainability, liveability and economic importance going forward, ensuring we meet the needs of present and future generations. As part of that, the role of being a ‘smart city’ is extremely important to achieving that vision. “*

ACC defines a smart city as a ‘sustainable city at the forefront of digital connectivity, technologies and infrastructure, where everyone can prosper, to ensure digital inclusion for all and to bridge the digital skills gap and to ensure the city is an attractive place to invest, live and visit’.



The Aberdeen Smart City Strategy has six key themes:

- Smart Public Sector
- Smart Technology
- Smart Mobility
- Smart Digital Skills
- Smart Tourism
- Smart Living

These themes are outlined in more detail on the ‘Aberdeen - a Sustainable, Smart City website pages (see <https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/environment/aberdeen-sustainable-smart-city>).

Aberdeen’s 8th City projects are featured within the strategy. For example, the Aberdeen [Open Data Portal](#) is highlighted within the **Smart Public Sector** theme, noting that this project was enabled through the ERDF programme ‘Scotland’s 8th City - the Smart City’ and the aim to make cities more attractive, liveable and resilient through data and digital technology - improving the cities for their citizens and making them more attractive to potential investors. As such it is recognised that sharing public sector open data demonstrates openness while the data can be the catalyst for innovation and commercial opportunities.

As part of the project, research was done into available publishing platform options, a suitable solution was identified, and the necessary technology was put in place. The platform was developed to be simple to use, whilst having a sustainable means of publishing and maintaining the data in the background.

The Open Data Aberdeen platform is now being used to publish open data in multiple different formats, depending on the content. This is the raw data that drives Aberdeen City Council, and its services. Through the platform users are encouraged to comment on the data that is available, and request new data that they would like to see published.

Another 8th City project, Intelligent Street Lighting (ISL), is featured under the ‘**Smart Technology**’ theme. As part of this project the old, inefficient and expensive street lighting has been replaced with LED lighting which is more cost-effective and energy efficient. As well as this a LoRaWan network was deployed and a node installed on each of the street light columns, allowing the street lights to be controlled through the mesh network. The node on each of the street light columns sends back data to a central management system (CMS) and officers can remotely control street lighting, dimming settings as well as monitor any faults. This new city-wide IoT network will allow the city to deploy smart city solutions in the future.

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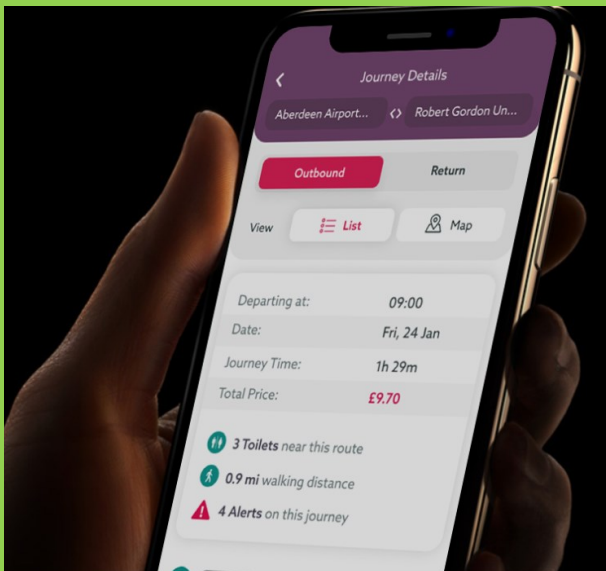
9 | CITIES UPDATE: ABERDEEN (Cont.)

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Under the **'Smart Mobility'** theme there are a number of exciting projects underway. This work builds on the wider aspirations of the ERDF programme 'Scotland's 8th City - the Smart City'.

As part of the CIVITAS PORTIS EU funded project, Aberdeen City Council alongside our developers EmberFuse Mobility and Mott McDonalds, have developed a travel planning app 'GoABZ' which was launched in October 2020.

The GoAbz App is a journey planning tool that adds layers of super-local, real time data and transport information for a more accurate and insightful Journey Planning experience. The app was developed as part of a co-design process



with volunteers from different types of groups.

Through this process the features, design, colours, brand name could be tested before being launched to the public. The purpose of GoABZ is to provide a much more practical, insightful and detail rich information across all available modes than a simple Google route planning. It is also hoped that it can provide behavioural nudges onto more active and sustainable modes of transport.

As part of the same project, NESTRANS, Aberdeen's regional transport partner, have been looking at Freight and Freight movements across the region.

As a result of enhanced use of data NESTRANS have built-up a better picture of freight movements across the region and can now use this as a baseline to monitor changes. This is particularly



important given the new Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route where Freight, alongside other vehicular traffic, are encouraged to take and make the city a 'destination' rather than through out.

To help encourage this change NESTRANS developed a Freight Routeing Map, showing the preferred freight routes - found online [here](#).

Amye Ferguson, Senior Project Officer, Aberdeen City Council | Smart Cities | City Growth | Place



**MJ Local Authority
of the Year 2020**

Congratulations to Aberdeen City Council on being named Local Authority of the Year at the MJ Achievement Awards in November 2020.

Judges noted the steps taken "to deliver an unprecedented transformation of the city through a pioneering capital programme and significant investments in the social and cultural future of its communities".

Public Safety and the Smart City

In developing projects during the early phase of the 8th City programme partners agreed to use a definition of 'Smart Cities' as the "integration of data and digital technologies into a strategic approach to sustainability, citizen well-being and economic development".

Furthermore, 8th City programme partners had a vision to make cities more attractive, liveable and resilient and to expand city capabilities and deliver priorities through improved community engagement, integration of service delivery and innovation.

Of all the Smart City domains (data, energy, flooding, IoT, mobility, waste, etc.) community/public safety and city operations management are areas where the interests and needs of citizens and communities are strongly presented. In seeking to address issues ranging from environmental incivility to serious crime and disorder, and from community reassurance and safer travel to responsive and efficient public services, it can seem that everybody has an interest in public safety and city operations.

For Phase 1 of the 8th City programme **Dundee** and **Perth** secured funding to create digital networks connecting high definition public space camera and video analytics systems with newly integrated Operations Centres. These IP networks were expanded and enhanced to incorporate capability such as CCTV, parking, traffic, lone worker, alarm and tenant call and phone systems, door access, car park barrier control and customer helplines, and community alarms - for better city management.

In Dundee, the new integrated security system has capability of accessing more than 1,000 Dundee City CCTV cameras and to securely transfer images between the five Operations Centres for 'Smart City' management: Dundee's new 24/7

Safety & Alarm Response Centre (SARC) co-located with the Community Safety Hub at West Housing Office; the new 24/7 Centralised Tayside Public Space Camera System at Dundee Police Scotland HQ; and Dundee's UTC (Urban Traffic Control) at Dundee House, Perth's UTC at Pullar House, and an Integrated City Operations Centre at the Community Safety Hub at Perth Community Fire Station which incorporates CCTV, Community Wardens and Community Alarms.



The new public space HD cameras include video analytics to alert operators to unusual scene activity and edge intelligence with tracking and object detection, even when the camera is moving.

As part of 8th City Phase 2, **Edinburgh** is also delivering projects with a focus on public safety and city operations. The ERDF 8th City Programme steered colleagues at Edinburgh to innovate and convert the existing CCTV service

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11 | PUBLIC SAFETY / CITY OPERATIONS CENTRES

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into a futureproofed end-to-end visual sensor infrastructure.

Approaching the system planning phase with a blank slate and cutting-edge technology in mind, a vision for developing the foundations of a Smart City Operations Centre soon materialised.

Edinburgh is installing an advanced Video Management System (VMS), modern networking mesh for the transmission of data across the city and high-resolution IP cameras. The VMS incorporates video analytical software to better manage the operational requirements of Edinburgh. These analytics will create many efficiencies in city operations, such as being able to automatically detect and alert an operator of an object left in a designated area and contact blue light services in an efficient automated incident workflow when required.

Deployment of the VMS will support transition from being a primarily reactive CCTV service, to a proactive one by utilising data to leverage insights for the city. By installing high resolution IP cameras, particularly within locations at main thoroughfares, the video analytical software can provide a much richer view of how people interact with the built environment – whether that is on foot, bicycle or vehicle. This data analysis can allow for better city planning and even data-driven flow management.

The VMS will be flexible and open in order to be able to grow and adapt into an operational platform built up with the bespoke analytics required for Edinburgh's unique requirements; successfully monitoring large events such as Hogmanay and the Fringe Festival but also analysing traffic flow in key arterial routes of the city.



Data captured and analysed by the VMS could be merged with other currently disparate data sets across the city, such as air quality, to discover new insights and understand holistically the way in which the city operates. Furthermore, it could unlock other ways to make operational activity more efficient in the future by creating synergies between other city services.

Deployment of the VMS also supports a move towards a single Smart City Operations Centre that allows Edinburgh to monitor the performance of key operations and infrastructure - integrating CCTV inputs with other key systems - such as traffic management, IoT sensors, and citizen reports - to identify trends and emergencies

The innovative approach enabled by the 8th City Programme has acted as a catalyst for developing the smart city vision within this project. By engaging in the ERDF bidding process, establishing the project and contributing towards the 8th City Advisory Board, the art of the possible has been empowered within the service area.

For more information please contact:

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Perth: Roddy Ross - RRoss@pkc.gov.uk or Ricky Neil - RDNeil@pkc.gov.uk

12 | 8th CITY DATA CLUSTER STEERING GROUP

The 8th City Data Cluster Steering Group has continued to meet (virtually) in recent months - with ongoing input from data project leads and key stakeholders such as Scottish Government.

Doug Young, Data Cluster Project Manager, was recently invited to talk data as part of the 'Scotland's 8th City - the Smart City' overview at the Quadrant Smart webinar delivered by Peloton events. This took place on 12th November - watch a recording of the event [here](#).

In advance of the webinar Doug was invited for a Q&A by Quadrant Smart, Britain's first and only Smart Cities magazine, and that interview is reproduced below.

QUADRANT

SMART

The world of data can unlock major opportunities for local authorities, and the Scottish Cities Alliance's (SCA) project manager **Doug Young** is there to do it. **Quadrant Smart** speaks to Doug about his role and data usage in Scotland.

Tell us a little about your job as a Data Cluster Project Manager, and what your role in the SCA looks like day to day?

DY: As the [8th City Programme](#) started, there was a quick realisation that there was going to be a lot of collaborative working happening within those projects. After a while, it was recognised that there was a need to coordinate those things together, which is how my role came about.

I sit on the SCA, but I coordinate some of the various open data projects that cities have as part of the city programme. What was found quite early on was that there were four distinct themes for collaboration: data standards; the actual publication of data, and to what formats; data skills in terms of what capacity allows our local authorities to continue the work they're doing and to meet the challenges they need to meet, using data.

Finally, there is a community capacity piece to this that we thought was key. We can do all of the



Doug Young, Data Cluster Project Manager, Scottish Cities Alliance

work we can, but we don't understand how our data is being used, and how we can foster those internal and external communities of data users – all of our work would come to nought.

The key thing I do is coordinate the collaborative elements of work. Each city has its own distinct goals, and the key common thread here is that everyone is publishing open data, but what I do is identify and help bring together the collaborative elements of all of the work.

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You previously worked at a more micro level at Perth & Kinross – what challenges/learnings could you take from the local authority role to apply to the nationwide scheme?

DY: You work with other places, and even in my current role, you'll see a lot of the challenges are not identical. There's always local differences. A lot of it is geography, a lot of it is demographics. But generally, it's the same issues: councils in general have challenging times in terms of funding and capacity, and yet there's an ever-increasing demand on services.

This is where the smart cities side of things comes in. Those innovative approaches, making the best use of technology. It's about training, it's how it's being used to kind of apply to those challenges, and data is a key component to that.

Glasgow, for example is quite far ahead of everyone else – and that's certainly still the case. We're at an interesting period where we're getting to publishing as usual, and other cities are looking now as to how we'll take that forward, what is the next step in how they can make the best use of that data.

Perth and Kinross have conducted an interesting project utilising data to understand changes to the high street. Looking at high streets in towns and cities across Scotland, what is the potential for data in revitalising retail?

DY: I don't have all the answers around that, but I think there's an element of capacity that comes in. I've worked a lot with economic and business development team officers in local authorities. They are absolutely incredible, just in terms of the local knowledge they have in terms of business.

They've been doing that, despite lacking quality concrete data. I think often times it has just been the lack of an effective method for measuring things like footfall. I think that's where, when you look at the opportunity of IoT, there is a very cost-effective way of measuring footfall.

I think you look at the rollout of IoT Scotland as one example, the low-power, wide-area networks getting rolled out in various places. Some of the projects measure things like footfall as well: for example, Dundee and Perth, one of the data projects is to upgrade the capabilities of the public safety camera networks.

We're just getting to the point now in Dundee and Perth where we can get very granular safe data in terms of where people are and they aren't. Once we had that and the skills and capacity in place to make full use of that, you're going to have your city-centre business development officers having a bevy of information. Not to mention, local businesses and traders and Chambers of Commerce are going to have access to fascinating data on where people are, where they aren't, footfall, and the like.

A previous interview with COSLA had Cllr Gail Macgregor noting how cross-sector buy-in from management down to officers is critical for delivering services – do you see the same in your role?

DY: Absolutely – that stakeholder engagement is key to not just this project, but smart cities more generally. I can guess why, having worked in smart cities for a number of years now.

It can often feel like a very abstract concept. This is where having good quality use cases is helpful. There's a proof there, in terms of what the benefits and the capabilities are. People can start to grasp that.

That's on our level – that's what senior management, that's down to officer level as well, just in terms of what the opportunities there are. A big part for me, and this is a big part in terms of data cluster work is that stakeholder engagement. It's key to have an effective strategy for approaching people of all levels, and tailoring the message to ensure that it's relevant to what people are doing. That's a key part of it.

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14 | DATA CLUSTER (PHASE 2) UPDATE

The Data Cluster Steering Group has continued with the core work of publishing datasets, continuing with the collaborative approach under-pinning the 8th City Programme and making use of virtual meetings and other tools to facilitate this work. As part of the process of cities spinning up Phase 2 projects, the Cluster has created a revised work-plan which forms the basis for collective work going forward. Here is a short update on the areas of focus for each of the work-plan's four themes:

Data Standards: The Cluster is working with the Scottish Government and other partners to implement best standards for data being published. This will ensure the data is highly reusable and that there is a degree of interoperability, giving cities the opportunity to publish common datasets around specific themes.

Data Discoverability and Publication: The Cluster will continue to publish high-quality datasets covering a range of subject areas. Additionally, the group will focus on looking at how the data is published and how easy it is to find and use, including through search engines.

Data Skills: The Cluster realised that to make the best possible use of our open data, our cities need to have the right skillsets to take this forward. To this end, the Cluster will commit to identifying and where feasible implementing the right tools and upskilling activities to ensure that we can make the best possible use of our data.

Data Community and Capacity Building: The Data Cluster is focusing on engaging with both current and potential users of the cities' open data, in order to ensure that we are not only publishing the right data, but it's also reusable. To this end, the Cluster has recently embarked on an ambitious programme of engagement with a wide range of external stakeholders through events and the creation of a platform for continuous engagement.

Doug Young, Data Cluster Project Manager

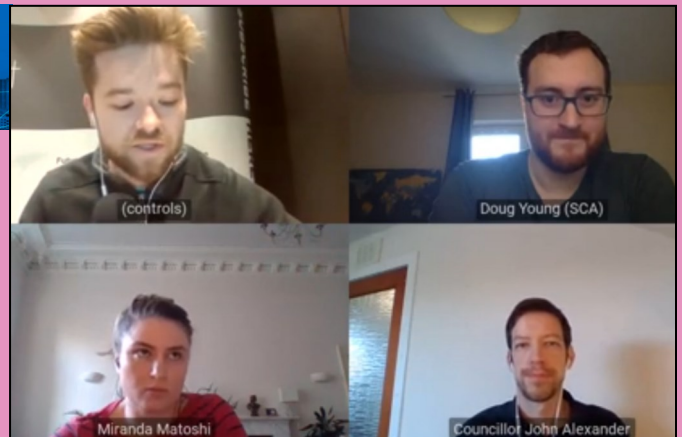
Spreading the word about the Scotland's 8th City - the Smart City ERDF programme



In recent months further presentations have been delivered on the 8th City programme. Cllr John Alexander, Leader of Dundee City Council and Chair of Scottish Cities Alliance (SCA), again provided input - this time to the **Quadrant Smart** webinar about the 8th City ERDF programme - broadcast on 12th November.

Cllr. Alexander's input highlighted the key role of community engagement and shared the example of Glasgow's use of Data in contributing to work to address child poverty. Closer to home, the Dundee 8th City ShareMORE Smart Mobility projects - using the Dundee MILL (Mobility Innovation Living Lab) as a test bed - also featured, along with a wide range of 8th City projects across all Scottish cities.

Alongside Cllr. Alexander, presentations were delivered by Doug Young, 8th City Data Cluster Manager, and by Miranda Matoshi, ERDF Project Manager for Edinburgh's City Operations project. Webinar recording available at https://globalmeet.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1360207&tp_key=b77e73a257





In 2019, Scottish cities were successful in applying (as a collective, under the ‘Smart Cities Scotland’ banner) to the **EUROCITIES 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 a range of Smart City domains (of which five relate to Smart Mobility actions). Over recent months 8th City programme partners from Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth and the Data Cluster Steering Group have engaged with EUROCITIES Sharing Cities officers around the development of actions which would lead to the development of Smart City actions and action plans. Manon Ghislain, Project Officer Smart Cities at EUROCITIES highlighted the engagement of 8th City partners, stating that:

“Connecting with cities all over Europe helps us to increase the value of Sharing Cities and its outcomes for the smart cities community. It is great to see that a lot of Scottish cities engaged with us and are determined to make their cities smarter! We are happy to help them along their journey.”

Amye Ferguson, Senior Project Officer (Smart Cities / City Deal / Place) at Aberdeen City Council outlined participation on behalf of Aberdeen:

“Introduced through the Scotland’s 8th City programme, Aberdeen City Council has participated in a number of webinars by the EU funded project ‘Sharing Cities’ which have been very informative and excellent to hear what other cities from across Europe are doing to further their Smart City ambitions. These webinars have included electric bike schemes, urban sharing platform and smart street lighting. As part of the Peer Learning in Sharing Cities Aberdeen participated in the LoRaWAN, Demand Side Response and Urban Sharing Platform webinars in November 2020. As part of these Aberdeen presented on progress and achievements to date, as well as pose questions to other cities participating in the webinars what their plans are in these theme areas.”

Although the programme of webinars has now been completed - with Smart City actions on e-bikes, building retrofit, smart lampposts, e-mobility, digital social market, and Sustainable Energy Management System (SEMS) all recently featured - the seminars remain available to view on the Sharing Cities YouTube play list; see <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmgrIPkbwrYIHZYxqGv-VxLBOhTKruKtB> for info.



With almost 50 projects ranged across Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the 8th 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 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.



Replacement funding: publication of plans for 'Scottish Shared Prosperity Fund'

On 19th November the Scottish Government published its [plans for a Scottish replacement for European Structural Funds after EU exit](#).

The paper represents the culmination of work undertaken by our Future Funding team of Karen McAvenue, Fiona Loynd, Sean Jamieson and Hannah Reid, as well as our Steering Group led by Professors David Bell and John Bachtler.

Minister for Trade, Investment and Innovation Ivan McKee MSP said: "The proposals we are publishing today for a Scottish Shared Prosperity Fund have been produced following 12 months of consultation and with the support of an expert Steering Group. We will now go on to develop the Fund involving key partners, especially local authorities. And we will continue to press the UK Government for full replacement of all lost EU funds – Scotland must receive at least £1.283 billion for a replacement seven year programme for 2021–2027."

Read [the paper](#) in full for more information.

SAVE THE DATE:

Wednesday 9 December online event

On the afternoon of 9 December, we will host an online event to celebrate the achievements of the 2014-2020 programmes in their final 'official' year.

The event's proposed agenda features contributions from the Minister, operations in the Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth areas and an update on Future Funding.

All Lead Partners and their stakeholders are welcome, though please note that we are likely to have a maximum capacity of 300 attendees.

We will issue an Outlook calendar invitation containing more information very soon.

2020 case studies booklet

The MA is planning to publish a case studies booklet to celebrate some of the achievements of the programmes. The booklet will be available online as a PDF.

We are already in contact with Lead Partners about contributions and unfortunately, due to time pressure, we won't be able to include an example from every Lead Partner/operation.

However, we are always happy to host case studies on [our blog](#) which we update on a rolling basis. If you have any new case studies, including images and supportive quotes, please send them to europeanstructuralfunds@gov.scot



CITY x CITY Festival

Open & Agile Smart Cities (OASC)

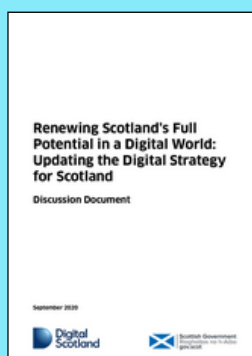
13 - 15 January 2021

On 16th November, it was announced that, after a decade of successfully hosting the annual Connected Smart Cities & Communities conference, the OASC network is shifting gears to amplify impact on society.

Registration is now open for the very first edition of [CITYx CITY Festival](#) - an initiative of Open & Agile Smart Cities. Our goal is to guide cities and communities in their digital transformation. To achieve maximum success, we want to encourage the implementation of [OASC Minimal Interoperability Mechanisms](#) among cities and communities, research and industry.

| CONSULTATION

Renewing Scotland's full potential in a digital world: Scottish Government consultation



This consultation is seeking views on a new digital strategy for Scotland, which reflects the changing digital world in which we live and the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

In outlining the vision for a new Digital Strategy the discussion document highlights key areas of activity - such as Services Working for All; Transforming Government; a Digital and Data Economy; a Vibrant Tech Sector; and an Ethical Digital Nation. Smart Cities gets a mention and the discussion paper notes that "Through the Scottish Cities Alliance millions of pounds are being invested to make Scotland's cities smarter, using new technologies to accelerate and transform the delivery of city services." Intelligent Street Lighting (ISL) also features as a case study.

Deadline for responding is 24th December. For discussion paper and further information please see: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/renewing-scotlands-full-potential-digital-world/>
