

Partnership report



Proposal to Join a 5G Trial Project

Date of meeting 6 March 2020

Date of report 11 February 2020

Report by Assistant Chief Executive

1. Object of report

To advise the Partnership of SPT's involvement in a trial 5G project to install 5G signal within subway tunnels.

2. Background

There has been much publicity around the introduction of 5G mobile signals, and the possible benefits to improve connectivity and speed of connectivity.

SPT was invited to participate in a trial project which would test the viability and practical operation of 5G within a subterranean environment, i.e. within a section of the Glasgow Subway tunnel. The project is being funded by the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport within the UK Government.

Key partners include Cisco and the University of Strathclyde, with an overseas partner in the South Korean Transport Agency.

3. Proposal

The current proposal is to test a 5G signal throughout a tunnel environment. Ideally the parties are keen to engage on what passengers' benefits there could be in the form of Infotainment (AR/VR) and advertising opportunities.

Participating in a successful project would allow SPT to fully understand the possible operational benefits in terms of maintenance and processes. Initial operational assessments have been undertaken, prior to agreeing to participate in the trial.

The 5G trial, including the development of the relevant kit - including antennas and receivers, as well as the AR/VR technologies – will be conducted over an 18-month period. The results will be shared with partners in South Korea who are conducting a similar trial and equally, learning points from there will be shared.

Importantly, members are advised that participation in the pilot exercise cannot in any way interfere or disrupt the ongoing Subway Modernisation project. This caveat has been highlighted to the project partners from the outset.

4. Conclusion

The involvement of SPT in such a trial demonstrates the collaborative nature of such projects which, if successful, could have significant operational benefits to SPT. SPT will

continue to work with the 5G trial partners and share results with other underground networks where appropriate.

5. Recommendations

The Partnership is recommended to note that SPT has been invited to participate in an international pilot project to assess the introduction of 5G connectivity within a subterranean environment.

6. Consequences

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| Policy consequences | <i>None directly.</i> |
| Legal consequences | <i>None directly.</i> |
| Financial consequences | <i>None directly.</i> |
| Personnel consequences | <i>None directly.</i> |
| Equalities consequences | <i>None directly.</i> |
| Risk consequences | <i>Risk mitigation considered related to Subway Modernisation.</i> |

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