



### Consideration of 5G Connectivity within Subway – Stage 2

**Date of meeting** 17 December 2021

**Date of report** 8 December 2021

#### Report by Acting Chief Executive

#### 1. Object of report

To advise the Partnership that SPT has secured up to £30,000 from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to support a further piece of work related to 5G connectivity within the Subway.

#### 2. Background

The Partnership has previously been advised of the successful completion of a pilot project in conjunction with The University of Strathclyde, the South Korean Transport Authority and CISCO (via the 5G RailNet Project) to demonstrate successful 5G connectivity during transit in the Glasgow Subway tunnel.

This original pilot was funded by DCMS to the value of £81,000, covering all SPT costs associated with the project.

Members were already advised that 4G connectivity already exists within the Subway at platform and station level, with limited coverage at the entrance of tunnels etc. The work to date has been to assess whether total connectivity throughout tunnels is possible and what would be required to do this.

#### 3. Current Position

In discussion with The University of Strathclyde, a further approach was made to DCMS to discuss how we could best utilise the findings of the initial pilot project and, following further discussion, a joint submission proposing researching the commercial business case and utilisation of 5G in support of Subway future maintenance was submitted.

DCMS have now confirmed that funding for this project has been approved to the value of £125,000, covering the costs of both SPT and The University of Strathclyde. The aim of this project is to establish the economic value, costs and efficiency benefits of installing a 5G private network in support of SPT activities and communications.

The research will be undertaken in the period up to the end of March 2022 and reported on thereafter.

#### 4. Recommendations

The Partnership is recommended to note SPT's continued work with The University of Strathclyde in this area and the successful bid to DCMS to support the next stage of 5G research.

#### 5. Consequences

Policy consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Legal consequences	<i>Agreement of grant arrangements with University to be completed.</i>
Financial consequences	<i>Up to £30,000 available to support any SPT costs incurred, including staff costs.</i>
Personnel consequences	<i>None directly, although any business efficiencies from connectivity will be assessed.</i>
Equalities consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Risk consequences	<i>None directly from the research.</i>

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