Oxford Smart City – Summary Paper to the Oxford Strategic Partnership – January 2015
Executive Summary and Recommendations

Background and Purpose:
In September 2014 the Oxford Economic Growth Steering Group created the Oxford Smart City Project Board and commissioned a scoping study to identify:
- A unique smart-city position for Oxford;
- Relevant current and proposed local initiatives; and
- A vision, mission and objectives for an Oxford Smart City programme.

The attached full report details the findings, opportunities and vision for **Smart Oxford – A Learning City for the 22nd Century**

Recommendation:
On 11 December 2014, a report on the project was given to the Oxford Economic Growth Steering Group which was supportive of the concept, recognised the potential opportunities that taking a smart approach could bring to Oxford, and asked the OSP to consider the findings of the scoping study contained in this report to:
- Endorse the vision and approach;
- Agree that the website http://oxsmart.city/ go live (access details sent separately); and
- Approve further detailed work on an implementation and business plan for discussion at the Oxford Economic Growth Steering Group

Executive Summary

(i)   The full report by the Smart Oxford Project Board (attached) summarises a broad-ranging review of smart city projects in the UK and globally, and on the basis of this review recommends to the Oxford Strategic Partnership that it launch an integrated programme under the heading of 'Smart Oxford – a learning city for the 22nd century.'

(ii)   The Vision of Smart Oxford will be a city where innovative ideas, active citizens, and aligned stakeholders come together to build a city that develops, evaluates and deploys new technologies and methods, to:
- Enhance understanding of itself; as a living, breathing community; and
- Achieve understanding and consensus on how it should change; to become equitable, sustainable, prosperous and resilient.

(iii)   To achieve this vision, the city's citizens and stakeholders will collectively exploit the opportunities arising from data-sharing and smart city technologies to:
- Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of public and private service delivery to Oxford's citizens and businesses;
- Bring about sustainable improvements in the quality of life for Oxford's people socially, economically, and environmentally; and
- Attract investment and innovation from around the world into the city and region.

(iv)   And so build a stronger, safer, economically and environmentally sustainable city, which will:
- Stimulate innovation in Oxford's world class researchers and innovators;
- Generate growth and jobs in private sector partners;
- Empower citizens to identify and be part of the solution to the city's challenges; and
- Enable public service providers to improve the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of their services.

(v)   Smart Oxford will create a world-leading centre of expertise which will:
- Export proven solutions and know-how to other cities and communities across the United Kingdom, Europe and the rest of world;
- Meet the needs of its own citizens; and

- Contribute to economic growth and prosperity in Oxford and the surrounding region.

(vi) Smart Oxford will require an understanding of current practices and actively implementing them in projects targeted at directly addressing the city's problems and exploiting opportunities to, for example:
- Make city services more efficient;
- Make homes and businesses more sustainable, in terms of resource consumption;
- Be more resilient to emergencies such as flooding;
- Be safer; and
- Be healthier.

(vii) Smart Oxford's projects will be highly visible, economically and socially important and fully engage all members of the Oxford community.

(viii) Smart City programmes funded by the UK Government, by the European Commission and by companies from a broad range of sectors represent a unique opportunity for cities to fund innovative ways to ensure that their cities are able to efficiently meet the needs of their citizens and businesses. We believe that Oxford can successfully compete for these resources because of a compelling combination of characteristics.

(ix) The City itself is compact at 46km^2, but has a surprisingly diverse demographic. The region that the City serves has both challenging environmental, transportation and housing problems, but also an enviable intellectual capacity and capability able to develop, test and deploy smart city technologies at scale. Importantly it has an aligned and active city stakeholder group which is committed to working together to attract investment, and already has a number of highly relevant programmes, representing a very sizable investment by a range of partners. These projects provide a firm foundation upon which to build a broader, smarter Oxford; with the initiative providing a way to accelerate the transfer of learnings from these projects to others addressing challenges facing the city region in other areas, and secondly, providing a robust framework to enable data sharing and inter-operability.

(x) An important conclusion of the review is that Oxford cannot afford not to explore the opportunities that technology might present for it to become a better city.

Conclusions and next steps

(xi) Funding from government can take us some way, but we need to secure inward investment from the business world too. Oxford has key strengths that make it feasible to secure investment. But to do that, we need to promote and market Smart Oxford in a coherent and concerted way

(xii) Given the above, the next steps are:
- For the OSP to endorse this proposal and the vision of Smart Oxford;
- To create a small, but dedicated team (initially driven by the Smart Oxford Project Board, but with additional support as it grows);
  - To launch, promote and market 'Smart Oxford - the Learning City'. As has already been described this would initially be built upon all the investments that have already taken place in Oxford that relate to the city thinking more cleverly about itself and how it does things. This, and the messaging associated with it, will create a 'buzz' and will start to attract partners; and
  - To develop a detailed strategy and business plan, bearing in mind that the rest of the world is not going to wait for Oxford, consequently, the OSP's partner organisations must be opportunistic and make sure that they submit bids relevant to this ambition. The Strategy and business plan would pull together key project teams, identify partners and funders and drive forward the winning of additional funding.

Smart Oxford Project Board, January 2015