

## **Connected Southampton**

### **A 'Smart City' development project between Southampton Connect and the Web Science Institute of the University of Southampton**

#### **Project summary:**

1. Southampton Connect is a unique collaborative partnership, bringing together public, private and third sector organisations and representatives to explore and address shared challenges and opportunities. The aim of the Connected Southampton project is to work with the University of Southampton Web Science Institute (WSI) to undertake research and develop new opportunities for a 'smart city'.
2. The concept of a 'smart city' is open to interpretation, but in general refers to using data and technology to create efficiencies, improve sustainability, create economic development, and improve outcomes for people living and working in the city.
3. We know that there are significant number of opportunities for funding for smart cities type research, some linked with the government's Industrial Strategy and InnovateUK, and others across a range of academic disciplines.
4. Southampton Connect and the University of Southampton signed a Research Agreement in April 2018. Southampton Connect and WSI agreed to each provide funding of £50k to the project. The combined £100k will fund the whole "Connected Southampton" Project for an 18 month period (until October 2019).

#### **Project aims/outcomes:**

5. The project will aim to deliver at least one research/delivery pilot that uses data and technology in a new way to deliver value in itself and attract additional major funding into the city.
6. The initial project outline (included at schedule 1 of the Research Agreement) indicated that the project would focus on "up to three workstreams" which were agreed as:
  - Respiratory conditions
  - Attendance
  - Virtual infrastructure

Each workstream will target a £1.5-2M grant application on the back of the work achieved through the initial funded project. The total target additional grant funding of £5M will bring in more research, more resources and a potentially useful commercial spin out.

7. Work in the first phase of the project indicated that in order to move forward with any use cases or proof of concept pilots, the basic infrastructure of data sharing platforms to support a smart city concept need to be in place. This was currently

being explored under the 'virtual infrastructure' workstream. The other two projects use cases of this 'virtual infrastructure' that is not yet in place.

8. There is a lot of the grant funding to accelerate the creation of city scale virtual infrastructure, and having a virtual infrastructure platform in place will, in turn, enable the city to bid for more funding relating to innovative uses of information in a variety of fields. The project Steering Group agreed with approval from Southampton Connect, to focus the project on developing the virtual infrastructure can be applied to a case study in line with funding opportunities.
9. In the longer term, by joining together such a large group of partners - and layering the combined industry connections – the project aims to surface real world contemporary socio-technical use cases and start to build major research and impact programs in a collaborative way. The initiative builds on the Industrial Strategy and AI Sector Deal. Southampton can become a national demonstrator for how to use AI well and lead in the field.

#### **Project management and reporting:**

10. The funding of £100K (50/50 Southampton City Council funding and Research Stimulus Funding) will cover the costs of developing bids for additional grant funding based on the collection of evidence, research and test pilots where appropriate.
11. This includes a Project Manager, who is working with researchers, academics and other partners to drive the projects and coordinate the writing of bids. In addition, the funding may include a budget for travel and subsistence (e.g. conference attendance, meetings), workshops (e.g. to brainstorm the project funding proposals), venue hire (e.g. for workshops) and equipment.
12. The Project Manager is managed through WSI and works closely with the Connect members who can help to collaborate in terms of data or resource to make each project a success.
13. The Project Manager reports directly to a Project Steering Group which means every 4-6 weeks, and is chaired by Sue Leamore, a nominated member of Southampton Connect). The Steering Group reports to Southampton Connect on a regular basis at each Southampton Connect meeting, or as required.