

**17<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**Capital funding for Future Towns Mobility Demonstrator – Item 3  
and Creative Tech Growth Booster – Item 4**

Programme Management Group members are asked to:

**RECOMMEND** to the Board that approval is given to provide a grant of £960k from the Local Growth Fund to fund the Future Towns Mobility Demonstrator project which will act as a pilot for three interlinked schemes seeking to drive footfall into our town centres as part of the economic recovery plan.

**AGREE** that a grant of £900k is provided to support the Creative Tech Growth Booster project at Royal Holloway utilising funding received from Government from the Getting Building Fund.

**1. Background**

- 1.1 Two projects were presented to the PMG meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Firstly, the Future Towns Mobility Demonstrator from the University of Southampton and secondly the Creative Tech Growth Booster project from Royal Holloway. Whilst both projects were deemed acceptable in principle, further detail and quantification was requested by the PMG on matched funding.
- 1.2 Discussion has occurred with both projects and supplementary information has been provided both on matched funding and the additional points raised by the PMG. This paper provides this detail for both projects.

**2 Future Towns Mobility Demonstrator – University of Southampton**

- 2.1 The Future Towns Mobility Demonstrator is seeking a grant from Enterprise M3 of £960k. Through discussion with Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council and Hampshire County Council, matched funding of over £100k has been identified. This comprises
  - Cash spend of up to £50,000 to support the project with funding to cover the costs of delivering some of the measures that will be identified as part of the demonstrator project and feasibility and viability testing. This includes supporting the installation of charging points for e-scooters and/or e-bikes, making permanent changes to the highway or maintaining the “smart shopper” application.

- In-kind match funding of over £50,000 from BDBC (one FTE) and £25,000 from HCC (0.5 FTE) based on the estimated amount of time staff members from HCC and BDBC will spend on the project to cover activities such as project management and coordination, procurement and contract management, monitoring and evaluation and engagement with local partners and businesses.

2.2 The Future Towns Mobility Demonstrator should be viewed as an extension of the Future Towns Innovation Hub. The project is a practical implementation of the vision of the Future Towns Innovation Hub and is a real-world demonstrator that seeks to drive innovation and learning. The original Future Towns Innovation Hub is a £10.26m project that received £2.96m of Enterprise M3 Local Growth Fund money with a matched funding contribution of £5.8m from the University of Southampton and £1.5m from Research England. The matched funding for this project was 71% of the total project cost. If the figures for the two projects are utilised, 66% overall match is available for the original project and the additional demonstrator.

Activity	EM3 funding £m	Match funding £m	% match of total project cost
<b>Future Towns Innovation Hub</b>	2.96	7.3	71
<b>Future Towns Mobility Demonstrator</b>	0.96	0.125	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	3.82	7.425	66

2.3 The following points were also raised by the PMG and appropriate responses have been received from the University.

Concerns	Response
Need to be extremely aware of the regulations in every aspect of this trial including use of e-scooters and road safety.	The UoS is part of the Future Transport Zone Project led by HCC that includes the trial of e-scooters and this significant road safety element will be draw upon. Safety aspects will also form part of the assessment criteria when appointing the e-scooter provider. As a demonstrator, we will also capture data, as part of the monitoring and evaluation programme, that will feed into future regulations regarding the use of e-scooters
The safety risks should be set out in a risk register	This will be undertaken in detailed scoping of the work packages, the appointment of e-scooter/bike provider and through monitoring and evaluation. The Register will be owned and updated by the Project Manager.
Project partners should be aware of Government plans and similar projects relevant to this	The project team are aware of the Government Regulations being formulated, similar schemes being trialled in the UK (and beyond) as part of the Future Transport Zone Project led by HCC. Full review will occur as part of the monitoring and evaluation activity.

With changes to road lay out and increase use of active travel, good communications with the public will be vital and relevant comms departments particularly of the LA s should be engaged and involved	Four dissemination conduits exist with BDBC, HCC, EM3 LEP and the Future Towns Innovation Hub all of whom will be actively engaged. There will also be significant dissemination activities through the Future Transport Zone Project led by HCC. We have allocated specific budget for project dissemination and will actively engage with the official Comms & Marketing Team at UoS.
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### Response for Creative Tech Growth Booster – Royal Holloway

- 2.4 The Creative Tech Growth Booster is seeking grant funding of £900k from Enterprise M3 for a total project cost of £1.4m with £510k matched funding (36%) from StoryFutures and project partners.
- 2.5 A full breakdown of this match has been received from Royal Holloway split by cash and use of staff.

Activity	EM3 funding £k	Story Futures cash £k	Story Futures staff £k	Partners cash £k	Partners time £k
<b>Work package 1 Diversification</b>	450	90	60	90	60
<b>Work package 2 Innovation</b>	250	10	30	0	0
<b>Work package 3 Productivity</b>	200	60	20	60	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	900	160	110	150	90

- 2.6 Partners cash is achieved through co-investment in project activities and is in line with previous projects undertaken by Royal Holloway. Royal Holloway have indicated that this will be the minimum level of match achieved and levels may be exceeded as the work packages begin to be implemented.
- 2.7 PMG also asked whether SMEs pay to access the kit and is it a revenue stream for the university. Royal Holloway have confirmed that it is not their intention to charge the SMEs for access to the kit or facilities as this provision falls within their remit to support R&D within the region. They also confirmed that in case it is of concern, they are comfortable that their State Aid response confirms that there is no difficulty with this from a State Aid perspective.
- 2.8 The final question related to the longevity of the project and how long RHUL are committed to operate the work packages for. This programme will operate until March 2023 based on the current project and could be extended if further funding is available.

### **3 Conclusion and Recommendations**

- 3.1 Both projects have responded quickly to the request for additional information which should allow the PMG to confirm their recommendation to their board for the Future Towns Mobility Demonstrator and agree to funding the Creative Tech Growth Booster.

Sue Littlemore  
16<sup>th</sup> September 2020