

Local Authority Transport Decarbonisation Accelerator Programme Partners



1. Introduction

About the Programme

Two Local Authorities (LAs) and one Subnational Transport Body (STB) have been selected and have each developed a specific place-based challenge. Supported by Connected Places Catapult (The Catapult), up to 2 SMEs will be selected to work collaboratively with each partner, refining their solutions to address the proposed challenges while receiving a bespoke programme of commercial support. SMEs will be selected based on the strength of challenge alignment, not necessarily their geographic proximity to the partner LA/STB.

About this Document

This Programme Partners document details the Local Authorities and Subnational Transport Body that are partnering with Connected Places Catapult for this Programme.

2. Who you'll be working with

Connected Places Catapult

Connected Places Catapult is the UK's innovation accelerator for cities, transport, and place leadership. They provide impartial 'innovation as a service' for public bodies, businesses, and infrastructure providers to catalyse step-change improvements in the way people live, work and travel. They connect businesses and public sector leaders to cutting-edge research to spark innovation and grow new markets and run technology demonstrators and SME accelerators to scale new solutions that drive growth, spread prosperity, and reduce carbon emissions.

Adur and Worthing Councils

Adur and Worthing Councils are separate District and Borough councils that sit within West Sussex County Council.

In 2007, Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council formed a partnership with goals to create a single, senior officer structure and shared service offering and to deliver cost savings and efficiencies for both councils. This innovative and groundbreaking approach was the first of its kind nationally.

The [Council's plan](#) outlines four Missions that must be addressed to achieve long-term growth and sustainability for Adur and Worthing: thriving people, thriving places, thriving environment, & thriving economy.

Working together to tackle climate change and protect the natural environment, the councils declared a climate emergency in 2019 and have signed the UK100 pledge for the whole area of Adur and Worthing to reach net zero by 2045.

In 2021 the Councils appointed a carbon reduction team, which has, in partnership with colleagues from across both councils and external organisations, secured more than £10m of external funding and delivered a number of key interventions. In February 2024, the councils adopted their [Carbon Management Plan](#), which details many of these interventions and how the Councils plan to achieve their Carbon Neutral target by 2030. As such, the Councils will be a model for all residents, organisations and businesses in Adur & Worthing, enabling them to lead the area towards net zero by 2045 through learning and shared infrastructure.

The Councils' carbon neutral interventions include the implementation of a heat network to decarbonise their buildings, as well as electrification of their fleet of 150+ vehicles. Furthermore, they are completing a world first hydrogen trial in their crematorium in order to understand feasibility of decarbonisation options.

Cardiff Council

[Cardiff Council](#) is the largest local authority in Wales and is responsible for delivering a full range of services including education, housing, economic development, transportation, waste management, and leisure facilities. The council is made up of 78 elected Councillors who elect a cabinet as the main decision-making body.

Cardiff is the Capital City of Wales, covering an area of 140 square kilometres. It has a population of 360,000 living in approximately 163,000 homes. It is an economic, cultural and political capital city. A city of strong and safe communities, great schools and universities, creative, talented, and welcoming people.

[Cardiff Council's Transport White Paper](#) and [One Planet Cardiff Strategy](#) set out ambitious plans to tackle the climate emergency, reduce congestion and improve air quality in the Welsh capital.

The council plays a crucial role in shaping the city's development and ensuring the well-being of its residents. Its focus is around:

- A stronger city, with an economy creating and sustaining well-paid jobs, with an education system that helps our young people reach their potential, with good, affordable housing in safe, confident and empowered communities, all supported by well resourced, efficient public services.

- A fairer city, where the opportunities of living in Cardiff can be enjoyed by everyone, whatever their background, where those suffering the effects of poverty are protected and supported, where a fair day's work receives a fair day's pay, and where every citizen is valued and feels valued.
- A greener city which, through our One Planet Cardiff programme, takes a lead on responding to the climate emergency, which celebrates and nurtures biodiversity, with high-quality open spaces within easy reach for rest and play which are connected by convenient, accessible, safe sustainable transport options.

[Cardiff Council Corporate Plan 2023-26](#)

Cardiff Council recognises the economic, social, environmental and cultural value that can be generated by spending money with local businesses, in particular small, micro and individuals and the third sector including voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) and welcomes proposals from these types of organisations. More can be found in its [Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy 2022-27 \(cardiff.gov.uk\)](#)

England's Economic Heartland

England's Economic Heartland (also known as The Heartland) is one of [7 Subnational Transport Bodies \(STBs\)](#) within the UK. The Heartland covers a region stretching from Swindon across to Cambridgeshire and from Northamptonshire down to Hertfordshire. Its membership comprises LAs and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs).

STBs have 3 core functions:

- Producing a regional transport strategy
- Producing a regional evidence base
- Prioritising regional infrastructure

The Heartland is responsible for setting the strategic vision for the region's transport system and sets ambitious targets for regional decarbonisation and a sustainable transport system. In February 2021 they published their regional transport strategy which set out the policies and principles for transport across the region.

This strategy set out the region's target to achieve net zero emissions by 2040. In 2020, the total CO2 emissions in the Heartland stood at 25,593kt, equivalent to 8.4% of the UK total. In addition, Co2 emissions have fallen at a slower rate than the national average – 33.4% compared to 30.4 between 2012 and 2020.

The Heartland recognise the value of innovative approaches to understanding the regional, and in particular, the wider environmental impact of transport policy and strategy.

3. Further Information

If you are unsure about whether your company and solution would fit the programme scope, please contact Kirsty Murphy, the Accelerator Programme Manager, at kirsty.murphy@cp.catapult.org.uk.

Please join our Application Support Webinar on 21st August at 14:00 - 15:00 You can apply to attend this event [here](#).