



## Investment Board

<b>Date</b>	13 March 2018
<b>Report title</b>	CDIS – Accountable Body Amendment
<b>Portfolio Lead</b>	Councillor Ian Ward - Economic Growth
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<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	This project has been approved by the Technical Appraisal Panel, Investment Advisory Group, Leadership Group and Investment Board at Outline Business Case stage. This amended report is to be considered by the Investment Board.

### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

### The West Midlands Combined Authority Investment Board is recommended to:

- 1) Agree to assign the Black Country Consortium as the Accountable Body for the CDIS Programme.

This project was approved by the Investment Board on 29 January 2018. However although the Black Country Consortium was stated as accountable body in the OBC, this was not explicit in the Cover Report of 29<sup>th</sup> January, so specific agreement of this is now requested.

## 1 Background

- 1.1 The Consortium for the Demonstration of Intelligent Systems (CDIS) was conceived in 2015 by the WMCA Innovation Working Group, a group formed to support Martin Reeves, as WMCA lead officer on innovation at the time, to consider appropriate innovation proposals for DevoDeal 1 and subsequently to steer their development. CDIS was a specific activity proposed in DevoDeal 1.
- 1.2 The WMCA Innovation Working Group, comprising a wide range of partners from across the innovation ecosystem in the West Midlands, has steered the early development of CDIS. Birmingham Science City (BSC), which convened this group,

led the work to develop the CDIS partnership and proposals to the OBC stage, as an independent alliance of innovation organisations from the public, private and university sectors from across the West Midlands.

- 1.3 BSC ceased to exist on 31 December 2017, but a new Innovation Alliance for the West Midlands came into being on 1 January 2018, picking up some of the objectives and actions of BSC, including the ongoing support for developing CDIS. The Accountable body for the Innovation Alliance is the Black Country Consortium.
- 1.4 The aim of the Consortium for the Demonstration of Intelligent Systems (CDIS) is to bring together regional expertise to develop and apply intelligent/ smart systems technology and approaches to solving real and substantial challenges faced by the public and private sector. The process of developing and scaling up solutions to such challenges will lead to the creation of new products, services and applications in the West Midlands, generating competitive advantage and leading to new and growing businesses.
- 1.5 At its heart, CDIS is a progression of collaborative feasibility, pilot and demonstrator activities that will tackle barriers to exploiting intelligent systems to solve the region's challenges in mobility, health and energy, and areas where those sectors interact.
- 1.6 CDIS supports the West Midlands Strategic Economic Plan, and is mentioned specifically in that document, as well as the ambitions stated in the Mayor's 'renewal Plan'. It also provides a good fit with regional strengths and priorities as identified in the recent West Midlands Science and Innovation Audit (WM SIA), and was used as a case study of potential good practice in that report.
- 1.7 CDIS will join up pockets of good practice and support the scaling up of effective innovative products and services from regional companies. CDIS will also connect up and build on the region's innovation excellence in businesses, universities, science and technology parks, NHS Trusts, Local Authorities, Catapult Centres and other business focussed research organisations.
- 1.8 CDIS represents a well-structured, measured, portfolio approach to challenge-led innovation.

## **2 Accountable Body Recommendation**

- 2.0 It is recommended that the project would be delivered by a wide partnership, as above, with the Black Country Consortium as lead partner and accountable body on behalf of the three LEPs in the WMCA geography and the whole partnership.

## **3 Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this report

## **4 Legal Implications**

- 4.4 There are no legal implications as a result of the recommendations within this report.

## **5 Equalities Implications**

- 5.5 There are no Equalities Implications as a result of this report.