

Appendix A: Project Overview.

The Low Carbon Future Mobility (LCFM) Project sits within the WMCA-funded UK Central Infrastructure Programme. It has a remit to develop and demonstrate new and emerging means of providing zero emission connectivity across the Borough that provide alternatives to single occupancy car journeys.

Based within the wider LCFM project, this specific initiative will see the Council purchase and loan the use of a zero-emission, road-legal, shared use Connected Autonomous Vehicle (CAV) to appropriate organisations within Solihull, and potentially, the wider West Midlands area. The loan of this vehicle will enable such organisations to work with the Council in testing future, mutually beneficial, CAV applications, including trialling new services to avoid single occupancy vehicle miles and / or improvements to site / organisational productivity, alongside reducing CO2 emissions.

Extensive and wide-ranging testing and demonstration across both people and goods movement use cases are increasingly important to the development of the emerging high-value CAV manufacturing sector within the West Midlands. The outputs of this work will contribute to both the development of key learning relating to the future of mobility and also the delivery of the region's industrial strategy. By enabling the engagement of CAV technology, this project will provide an evidence base for the development of future bids / business cases to move solutions through to commercial viability. The Council intends to work in partnership with organisations including: regional transport operators, grocers, educational institutions, business parks and key transport and entertainment hubs in the development and delivery of use cases, providing significant knowledge transfer and high-value skills development.

The project will run for a minimum of two years from Apr 2021. The vehicle will utilise the Transport for West Midlands supported Midlands Future Mobility (MFM) CAV testbed and WM5G infrastructure where applicable. Its outputs will include: demonstrating autonomous people movement during the Commonwealth Games; showcasing the region as a centre for CAV development, provide learning on future mobility services and highway infrastructure design across all future development sites within Solihull and the wider region, including the integration with the HS2 Interchange and Hub.