Smart London Board: Meeting 16 January 2019

Attendees
Theo Blackwell, Chief Digital Officer for London (chair)
Jeremy Skinner, GLA
Nathan Pierce, GLA
Stephen Lorimer, GLA
Omid Shiraji, LB Camden
Rikesh Shah, Transport for London
Jim Wood, London Legacy Development Corporation
Eddie Copeland, Nesta
Ekaterina Lichtenstein, Project Imagine
Jen Hawes-Hewitt, Accenture
Volker Buscher, Arup
Andy Hudson-Smith, UCL
Duncan Wilson, UCL

Linda O'Halloran, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Julie Alexander, Places for People
Miranda Sharp, Ordnance Survey
Jarmo Eskelinen, University of Edinburgh
Lucette Dements, London and Partners (observer)
Allen Simpson London and Partners (guest)
Matthew Cain, LB Hackney (guest)
Rachel Coldicutt, Doteveryone (guest)

Apologies
Claire Maugham, Smart DCC
Ben Johnson, Senior Adviser to the Mayor of London–Business and Digital

Welcome and introduction to London and Partners (Theo Blackwell)

The Chief Digital Officer and Miranda Sharp from Ordnance Survey welcomed everyone to the Smart London Board and the Geovation Hub. London and Partners were welcomed as observers, and the next board meeting will debate the branding of London as a smart and innovative city.

Update on London Office of Technology and Innovation (Omid Shiraji)

Omid Shiraji, programme associate of LOTI, presented his initiation plan of 1) Finance/constitution 2) Team 3) Governance 4) Workstreams 5) Launch and 6) Opportunities as funding agreements with the GLA and London boroughs conclude in H1 2019. Discussion included partners beyond London boroughs, rebooting the London Datastore, and collaborative procurement. The board were invited to contribute ideas for the pipeline of projects that LOTI will initiate and/or support.

Presentations on algorithmic transparency (Eddie Copeland / Matthew Cain / Rachel Coldicutt)

The Roadmap proposes that "The Smart London Board will discuss the development of a code of standards on algorithmic decision-making."

Eddie Copeland, Director of Government Innovation, Nesta, presented ['A brief introduction to public sector AI ethics and its challenges'](#) – proposing that artificial intelligence (AI) in the public sector has a huge potential in dynamic changing of service delivery, but ethical questions need to be asked, including the biggest problem of 'explainability' of the use of AI.

Matthew Cain, Head of Digital and Data, LB Hackney, presented their approach to data ethics. They found low trust in the council managing data, and the solution they found is to commission a citizen jury to play out how Londoners feel about using data in AI in its digital projects.

Rachel Coldicutt, CEO, Doteveryone, presented 'Mitigating Algorithmic Bias: Or, Responsible Data for London' proposing 1) governance is more important than ethics 2) purchasers set the rules, and 3) define values rather than ethics. Recommendations were: 1) legible algorithms are trustworthy, 2) engage with public life, not public engagement and 3) communication instead of education.

It was decided to form a **Smart London Board working group on AI and Data Ethics in public services**, and for the Chief Digital Officer to agree with the Corporate Investment Board to discuss the development of a code of standards on algorithmic decision-making from this working group.

Cleared by: Theo Blackwell, Chief Digital Officer for London

Lead Officer: Stephen Lorimer, Smart London Strategy and Delivery Officer, Intelligence Unit