

Facilitating a connected roadworks project for Staffordshire

The Client

Tenshi and our programme partners Amey, Staffordshire County Council, CSC, Elgin, Staffordshire University, and the Future Cities Catapult collaborated on 'Holistic spatial asset investment planning service' a £600k Innovate UK grant funded project within the 'Urban Living: Integrated Products and Services' programme.

The Challenge

In 2002, Heineken aired a TV commercial featuring a road construction worker, a gas mains layer and a phone cable installer, all taking advantage of the opportunity to do their works in the same open hole at the same time, saving themselves and the commuters around them time, money and inconvenience.

This project aimed to realise the satirical "dream roadworks" commercial by integrating a number of key city services' data for the first time to streamline the delivery of roadworks in a pilot county, Staffordshire, UK. The project was funded by Innovate UK collaborative R&D grant which supported data-driven, multi-sector initiatives, to solve problems around the management and operation of cities. meet the challenges of achieving sustainable growth and other pressures.

To deliver the pilot, the programme partners shared and gathered data across multiple organisations, to build a bespoke software tool to enable truly "joined up" roadworks. However, a challenge remained in how to use this cleaned and open data building used in the project's bespoke software tool for further value; how can we make sure all the work done to access and clean the data doesn't go to waste after the project finishes? Can it also be used to stimulate a local digital economy, and improve other civic experiences through innovation and coloration?

The Solution

A Smart City and Open Data platform to enable Joint Roadworks planning and help reduce traffic congestion, improve the life of highway assets and bring the benefits to the economy and citizens.

The project used historical and planned works data from local utilities and public data from the county, to develop a platform which predicted joint works "hotspots" where there is opportunity to join up and tackle works planned for roads simultaneously. The programme also demonstrated the economic, social and environmental case to enable scaling the outcomes across the country.

We also developed an open data innovation challenge programme. We published the data gathered within the project and invited SMEs, locally and from around the country, to participate in 3 innovation challenges within Health, Transport and Social Care.



Outcomes

Tenshi's role in this project was to drive further value from the data used for the research. By creating the open data store and innovation challenge programme, this stimulated digital tech innovators to use the data to develop new products and services.

We also aimed to inspire and support one of the project partners, a local authority, to solve its public service delivery challenges in new and innovative ways, and to foster more efficient and effective services for its customers (citizens).

As a result of Tenshi's work, the Council is now partnering with two micro start-ups to run pre-commercial trials of new products designed to improve the quality of life for residents and reduce pressure on Council services. From the project, the region also benefits from the local open data store, a critical piece of digital infrastructure for the region. And, though we can't take full credit for this, we have seen evidence of culture shift within the Council; they are more confident now in taking new approaches to solving their business and service challenges (eg. following our contests, they ran an ideation-hackathon around social care services).

37

Start-ups engaged

5

Challenge finalists

2

Innovation products launched

Brave, Inspiring, Resourceful

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