



Association of Directors of  
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

## ADEPT President's Awards 2022

### Entry form

<b>Award category:</b>	Delivering Clean growth
<b>Title:</b>	The future of mobility – clean, accessible, and affordable
<b>Entrant:</b>	Solihull MBC
<b>Main contact name:</b>	Colin Maltby
<b>Email address:</b>	<a href="mailto:Colin.maltby@solihull.gov.uk">Colin.maltby@solihull.gov.uk</a>
<b>Partner/s (if applicable):</b>	Transport for West Midlands
<b>Headline summary (150 characters, c. 20-25 words)</b>	
In 2021 Solihull Council purchased a driverless shuttle bus to achieve its affordable net zero future mobility ambitions and conducted advanced trials that demonstrate viability.	

Please note we need **at least one supporting image** per award submission.

Supporting images should be attached separately as jpg or png files.

Please paste links to any supporting video evidence here

Link 1	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sr3HfOKJhb8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sr3HfOKJhb8</a>
Link 2	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpScj3SQEio">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpScj3SQEio</a>
Link 3	<a href="https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/birmingham-airport-driverless-bus-carries-23456425">https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/birmingham-airport-driverless-bus-carries-23456425</a>

# ADEPT

Association of Directors of  
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

**500-word project outline** (please ensure you do not exceed the word count and address all the judges' criteria – for more info see [here](#))

Stimulated by the forthcoming establishment of the HS2 Interchange, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) is preparing for significant commercial and residential growth. Transport modelling illustrates that reliance on single occupancy motor vehicles is not sustainable: their growing usage will create unmanageable levels of congestion and prolonged journey times. In addition, 39% of Solihull's carbon emissions are related to transport. To solve these formidable challenges, and seize the opportunities presented by HS2 investment, new game-changing forms of affordable, convenient, accessible, and clean shared transport are required.

In August 2020, SMBC established a vision for mobility within the Borough to include low-cost multi-occupancy driverless transport. Extensive and wide-ranging demonstration across both people and goods movement use cases are central to the stimulation and development of the emerging high-value clean growth connected autonomous vehicle (CAV) manufacturing sector within the West Midlands, the outputs of which would contribute to both the delivery of the region's industrial and net zero strategies, ready to be applied at scale in future years.

Working closely with commercial, public and third sector partners SMBC spent time to understand the nature of mobility challenges, and in response developed a compelling range of real-life applications of self-driving transport – all responding to the Council's ambition of realising the significant potential cost, safety and environmental benefits of this technology for its residents.

Going beyond its traditional role, in June 2021, securing funding from the GBSLEP, SMBC Council became the first authority in the UK to purchase its own self-driving shuttle. The vehicle was procured from Coventry-based Aurrigo, a leading SME in the clean growth technology sector.

Working with a range of partner organisations, including insurance companies, safety engineers and landowners, since August 2021 the Council has been undertaking trials in the vicinity of the planned HS2 Interchange. Successful passenger carrying operations have been demonstrated at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) and Birmingham Airport over the past 12 months, providing significant learning to the Council and its partner organisations. Alongside these innovative solutions around the HS2 / NEC / Birmingham Airport sites, other targeted future uses for self-driving shuttles that offer the opportunity to substitute car use include: linking dense 'car-centric' new build residential developments to rail stations; providing satellite villages with new and flexible solutions to access larger towns; and providing direct, 24/7 mobility solutions to workers in the north of the Borough to facilitate employment at NEC / Resorts World / Airport sites. These services, once successfully implemented, have the potential to improve lives in Solihull, providing new, zero emission and affordable access to jobs, services and education.

By significantly lowering the financial barriers to engaging with CAV technology, this project is providing UK organisations, including other Councils, with an evidence base for the development of solutions through to commercial viability, replacing carbon-intensive single-occupancy mobility with new forms of future-proofed clean mobility.



Association of Directors of  
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

The Council continues to work with partner organisations in its programme of self-driving transport development with the aim of ultimately providing commercially viable driverless shared mobility solutions across the Borough.