Coventry Very Light Rail: A Cornerstone of the Green Industrial Revolution

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Coventry: background

- 10th largest city in England
- Invention and manufacturing: history as a booming automotive manufacturing city and where the first modern bicycle was invented
- City retains a wide and innovative skill base to this day with two major universities: Coventry University and University of Warwick
- Green industrial revolution is a challenge and opportunity – Coventry is becoming a testbed for innovation, unique among local authorities and well placed to capitalise on local assets and capacity

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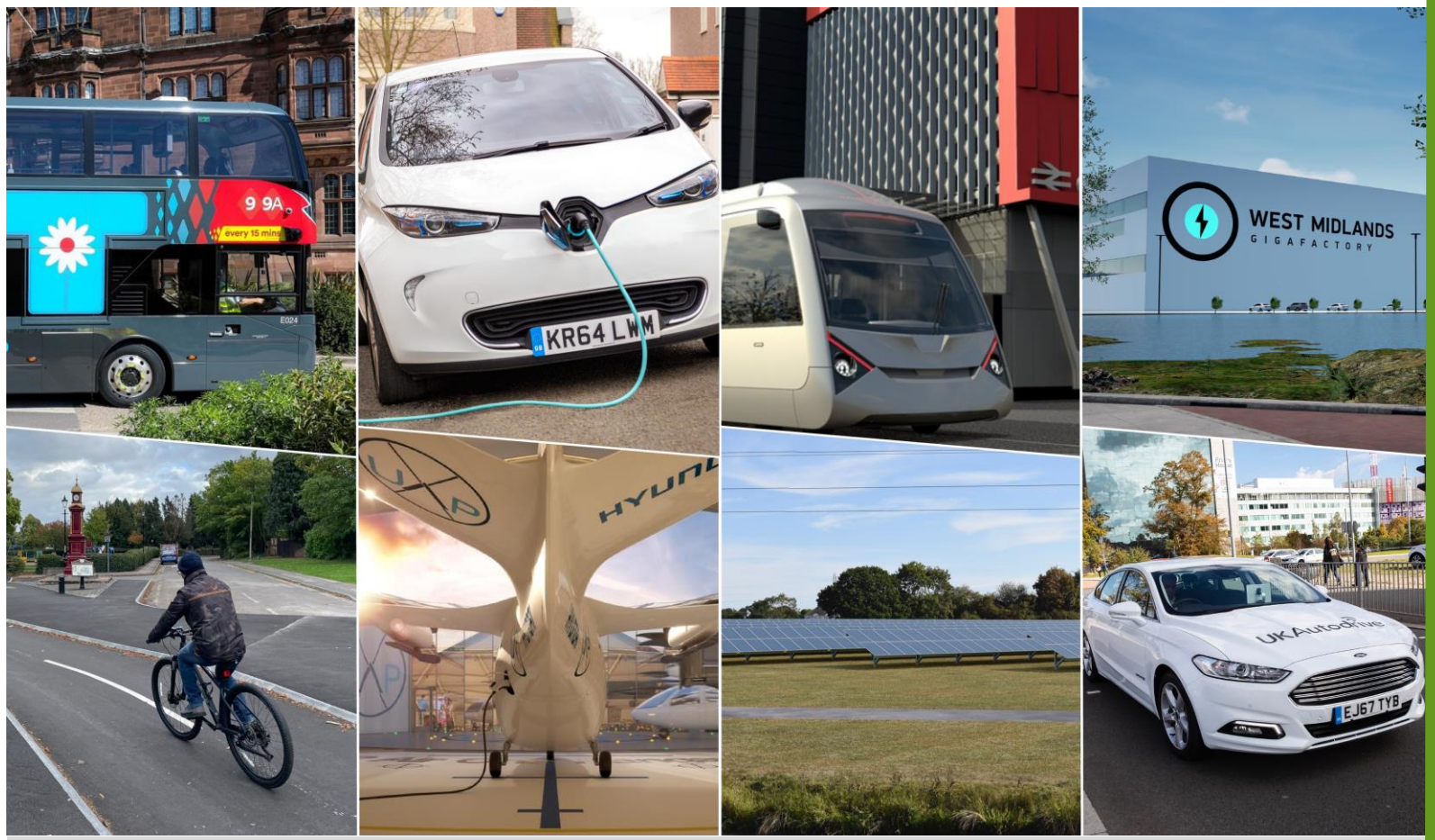
UK green prosperity and growth



- Green infrastructure and growth are the future and the UK's industrial strategy needs to reflect this
- Government's centralised funding and business case approach limits the ability of local authorities to innovate
- However local authorities have an influential role to play alongside R&D partners to ensure the UK can benefit

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Coventry Very Light Rail

An example of R&D in action

New system can deliver affordable light rail across the UK and beyond:

- New manufacturing sector, jobs and skills in West Midlands
- Easily retrofitted meaning minimal disruption
- Light rail drives mode shift
- Zero emission, battery operated, turns tight corners, no overhead cables.

Cost cutting game-changer track:

- Majority of Utilities can remain in situ– huge cost reductions

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Headlines

- Track sits 300mm in the road surface
- Aiming for half the cost of traditional light rail
- Testing underway at BCIMO and Whitley Depot
- Developed a strategic partnership approach to deliver ambitions

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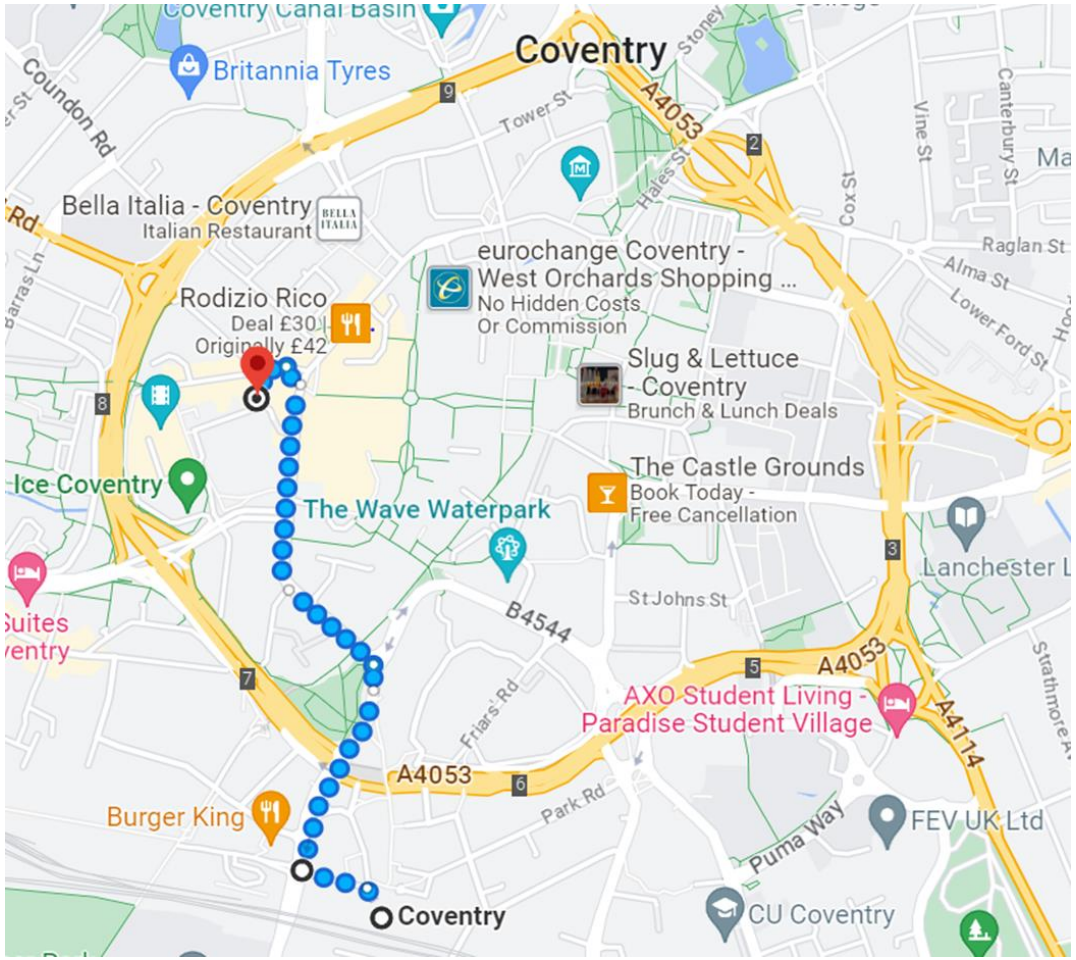
What's next?



- In 2024 commence the build for the demonstrator route in Coventry City Centre
- Vehicle testing and accreditation
- Raising the profile of CVLR and its potential for British manufacturing and transport decarbonisation
- Seek commercial models to exploit the opportunities

The Challenges

- Building the business case in line with the Green Book
- Demonstrating the impact and benefit to funding authorities, who continue to measure value in comparison to traditional bus transit systems
- Building trust and demonstrating credibility

National policy asks

- Streamline funding processes for innovative projects led by local authorities
- Establish a cross-government VLR Working Group to back development
- Legislate for on-road light rail automation
- Reform TWAO process to shorten timescales

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Summary

- **Skills -** CVLR uses R&D exploiting the latest automotive expertise
- **Decarbonising Transport -** Our towns and cities need environmentally sustainable mass public transit systems
- **Cost -** £10 million per km, through its innovative track form design.
- **Jobs -** The CVLR programme presents a genuine opportunity for British design and manufacturing
- **Health -** CVLR will support improvements in air quality.

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