**What is the ‘Urban Digital Stack’?**

It is a framework to help policy officials and decision-makers in UK cities and city-regions to understand how existing urban public transport systems can be organised to incorporate digital mobility platforms.

There is growing understanding of how individual mobility platforms, such as ride-hailing, micro-mobility or ticketing platforms, are becoming embedded in particular places – but the reality is that dozens of different kinds of platforms now operate simultaneously within urban areas. The result is a broad range of mobility services and interests competing with or complementing each other within any one city or city-region.

This has produced an uneven, often fragmented and sometimes volatile landscape of platform activity in cities and city-regions across the UK, with systemwide implications. Control over platform services and provision has become distributed among a variety of public, private and public-private interests and may be organised according to different economic, ecological and social priorities.

Digital platforms are increasingly embedded in urban transport systems. The Urban Digital Stack provides a framework and language with which to understand how a variety of platforms can be organised in a particular place. It is a tool that helps those charged with making decisions about existing urban public transport systems to think strategically about how these systems can be effectively ‘platformised’.

**Who should use it?**

The key audience for the Urban Digital Stack is decision-makers operating at the scale of the city or city-region - particularly officials in metropolitan and local transport authorities who are involved in planning and strategic decision-making.

**How should they use it?**

The urban digital stack provides a framework and language for officials to think about and discuss with colleagues and stakeholders the challenges and opportunities presented to public transport systems by the continuing entry and integration of multiple types of platform.

The variety of platforms now embedded in urban transport systems broadens the range of social interests and forms of expertise involved. How platforms and the existing system should be organised is often unclear. Bringing clarity to this requires not a route map or prescription but a framework to guide the development strategy. Underpinning this are the Six Steps:

1. What are the public priorities and objectives for transport policy?
2. What pressures and opportunities are being responded to?
3. How is and how should the stack be organised?
4. Who is in control?
5. What is the stack’s geography?
6. How will the stack develop over time?

This can mean using the Urban Digital Stack to structure discussions in internal strategy development and planning meetings. It can also be used to communicate in policy and strategy documents how an existing urban public transport system can be organised to incorporate digital mobility platforms.