

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

SOUTH HUMBER BROADBAND PROJECT TEAM

1. OBJECT AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF SUBJECT

- 1.1 To create the posts of: Programme Director, Project Manager, Project Officer and Project Support Officer within the South Humber Broadband project team
- 1.2 These posts will be filled by the secondment of existing North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) staff for an initial duration of three years
- 1.3 The posts will ensure that the project team has the capacity to deliver a successful South Humber Broadband local broadband plan, a commercial supplier procurement, and subsequent superfast broadband implementation.
- 1.4 An urgent decision is required to enable the recruitment of these posts to commence with immediate effect.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 NLC and North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) are running with a South Humber Broadband programme to secure government (BDUK) funding in order to stimulate the commercial investment of superfast broadband in the rural areas of the South Humber, to coordinate the procurement of the services of an infrastructure supplier, and then to manage the implementation of the broadband rollout
- 2.2 NLC is the major partner and will manage the project
- 2.3 It has been agreed that NELC will not financially contribute to the project, however they will supply information and provide staffing on an ad hoc basis

2.4 To perform the programme to a high standard and to deliver the programme's objectives, four new posts are required: Programme Director, Project Manager, Project Officer and Project Support Officer.

2.5 Should these posts not be approved, there will be no means of delivering the Local Broadband Plan and hence NLC and NELC will not receive their allocated BDUK funding.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 To approve the posts of Programme Director, Project Manager, Project Officer and Project Support Officer as part of the South Humber Broadband project team

3.2 To reject proposal.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Option 1 is considered the best option.

4.2 Job descriptions outlining the duties of the four posts have been drawn up by the Council and checked by NLC HR.

4.3 The posts of Programme Director, Project Manager, Project Officer, and Project Support Officer have been evaluated by Human Resources at Grade 11, 9, 7, and 4 respectively. This is in line with other programme/project officers within the council and reflects the level of decision making and accountability.

4.4 The posts are essential in ensuring that the superfast broadband infrastructure is implemented successfully in the South Humber area.

4.5 If these posts are not approved, the Local Broadband Plan will not be accepted by BDUK and hence the funding allocated to NLC and to NELC will not be released. This could negatively impact on the delivery of superfast broadband in the rural areas of North and North East Lincolnshire.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

(Include in here paragraphs relating to the resource implications of the preferred option as appropriate)

5.1 Financial implications –

The costs of the Programme Director amounts to £52,172, based on mid point of Grade 11 and inclusive of on costs.

The costs of the Project Manager amounts to £42,346, based on mid point of Grade 9 and inclusive of on costs.

The costs of the Project Officer amounts to £31,402, based on mid point of Grade 7 and inclusive of on costs.

The costs of the Project Support Officer amounts to £19,722, based on mid point of Grade 4 and inclusive of on costs.

5.2 Staffing implications – The posts will sit in Regeneration and Planning. Recruitment to the posts will be undertaken in line with current HR guidelines relating to expressions of interest in secondment opportunities.

5.3 Property implications – The team will be located with the Regeneration and Planning area on the Lower Ground Floor of Pittwood House

5.4 IT implications - None

6 OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 – CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

(include in here paragraphs relating to other implications of the preferred option as appropriate)

6.1 There are no other implications

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 NLC Regeneration and Planning has been fully consulted and fully supports the creation of this post.

7.2 A copy of the report has been sent to local trade union representatives for comment and has been agreed.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That cabinet member approves the creation of the posts of South Humber Broadband Programme Director, Project Manager, Project Officer, and Project Support Officer.

HEAD OF REGENERATION AND PLANNING

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report - None