

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

**NORTHERN LINCOLNSHIRE BROADBAND
EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1. To approve the contract award for European Regional Development Funding.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Northern Lincolnshire Broadband project applied for European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) in 2012. An outline application was submitted in May 2012. It was approved in July 2012. A full application was submitted in October 2012. This was formally approved on 9 April 2013.
- 2.2 Northern Lincolnshire was allocated £2.511m of ERDF. Of this, £1.557m was allocated as capital to contribute towards upgrading broadband infrastructure. The remaining £954,000 was allocated as revenue to deliver a programme of business support to eligible Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).
- 2.3 Regional CLG, who administer the ERDF in England and Wales have worked on contract finalisation throughout April and May. A contract for the project was due on 20 May 2013. A slight delay has occurred due to capacity issues at CLG. A contract is now expected during the week commencing 27 May 2013.
- 2.4 The application approval and contract award is the first of any applicable to Broadband related projects in the Yorkshire and Humber region. Regional CLG are now in receipt of our changed proposal. This seeks to increase the ERDF award based on the additional public sector funding available through BDUK and North Lincolnshire Council.

3 OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The options for consideration are to either accept or reject the ERDF award offer.

4 ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The ERDF will fund part of the network build for superfast broadband. In addition the funding is being used to fund 100% of the costs associated with delivery of a business support programme to eligible SMEs.
- 4.2 Without ERDF, neither the network build or business support programme can proceed. Without ERDF the government's BDUK allocation will also be withdrawn.

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

- 5.1 The current public sector funding for the capital programme is £4.197m. ERDF represents £1.557m of this.
- 5.2 The business support programme is entirely financed via ERDF.

6 OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACTASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

- 6.1 Officers have completed an integrated impact assessment for the project
No issues of concern were highlighted.

7 OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

- 7.1 N/a.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That Cabinet welcomes the offer of European Regional Development Funding in support of the Northern Lincolnshire Broadband Project.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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