

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

NORTHERN LINCOLNSHIRE BROADBAND PROJECT

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on the progress made with the Superfast Broadband rollout currently being implemented across Northern Lincolnshire.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The council is the accountable body for the Northern Lincolnshire Broadband Programme. This is a partnership project between North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council. The project launched in 2012 and following a lengthy procurement exercise we signed a contract with BT as Supplier on 28 June 2013.
- 2.2 The project is investing £7.3m capital in upgrading broadband infrastructure across Northern Lincolnshire. The funding is sourced from North Lincolnshire Council, Government (via BDUK) and European funding (via European Regional Development Funding). Once complete the project will have upgraded 154 cabinets and over 31,500 premises.
- 2.3 The project is being rolled out through 4 phases of concurrent delivery. The project is currently in phase 3 which will run until March 2015. Phase 2 runs concurrently and will complete at the end of December 2014.
- 2.4 To date, over 117 cabinets have been built and erected, with only 37 left to stand. 92 are already 'customer ready for service' i.e. selling a 'live' broadband service and the others will go live in the coming quarter. The upgrades have already delivered fibre broadband to over 15,300 premises across the two local authority areas.
- 2.5 All phase 1,2 and 3 surveying and planning is now complete, with 90% of phase 4 planning complete. The overall deployment plan is on target in accordance with the project plan. It is one of the quickest deployments nationally.
- 2.6 Since June 2014 the project has received two external audits by the government's Cross Departmental Independent Audit Service (XDIAS). They have reported that none of the project expenditure is at risk or has been expended ineligibly.

2.7 Government has allocated a further £1.18m to the project to spread the fibre footprint further. A procurement process to utilise this funding is well underway. The Council is seeking match funding from ERDF to double the funding. This is a requirement to be able to utilise the government funding.

2.8 In addition to the capital investment a programme of business support is ongoing and will run until June 2015. To date over 2,140 hours of business support has been provided to eligible Small and Medium Enterprises across Northern Lincolnshire. 373 businesses have been engaged with, 104 businesses have completed the programme of support and 42 are currently undergoing the programme. The demand for this support remains high and is well received by participants.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Option One – To note the report.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 The report is for information only.

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

5.1 Financial

Capital and revenue expenditure is proceeding to plan. The total capital investment is £7.3m.

5.2 Staffing

There are no additional staffing implications arising from this report.

5.3 Property

There are no property implications arising from this report.

5.4 IT

There are no IT implications arising from this report.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 An integrated impact assessment was completed and no issues of concern were apparent.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED

7.1 Consultation has taken place with relevant officers within the Council and any comments incorporated into the preceding information.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That Cabinet notes the progress being made with the project.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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Date: 21 October 2014

Background papers used in the preparation of this report

None.