

1st July 2014**Agenda Item: 4****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, POLICY, PLANNING AND
CORPORATE SERVICES****BETTER BROADBAND FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE – UPDATE ON THE
ROLLOUT AND PHASE TWO EXPECTED EXCHANGE LOCATIONS****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is for Economic Development Committee to receive:
 - a) an update on the rollout and expected Phase Two BT Exchange area locations for the Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire (BBfN) programme;
 - b) notification of the submission of a funding bid by Derbyshire County Council (including the Nottinghamshire area) to the Government's recently launched Women and Broadband Challenge Fund, and;
 - c) an appraisal of the progress made to date in relation to the £2.63m allocation from Government for Superfast Extension Programme resources.
2. At the request of Economic Development Committee members, the General Manager and Project Manager from BT Group responsible for the BBfN programme will be in attendance for the meeting's broadband agenda item to address any questions or concerns and to share thoughts on best practices, gaps and challenges in relation to the rollout.

Information and advice

3. This report is the twelfth in a series previously issued to Full Council, Policy Committee and Economic Development Committee regarding the BBfN programme and provides an update on: the programme communications, events, funding opportunities, progress to date on Phase One, an overview of the expected Phase Two locations and an update on the Government's proposed Superfast Extension Programme.

Communications

4. Significant steps have been taken since the last report to 1 April 2014 Economic Development Committee to improve externally facing communications about the programme across Nottinghamshire. This level of information (down to postcode level) is now available to Members and the public in relation to the roll-out of fibre-based broadband via an interactive search tool on the Nottinghamshire County Council website:

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/living/business/broadband/where-and-when/>

5. The search tool will be updated on a regular basis, with updates identifying the areas in which work has been completed and those where fibre-based broadband services are available. Members may wish to familiarise themselves with the post code checker by inputting a sample of postcodes in their areas through this new facility.
6. The BBfN deployment map on the webpages has also been updated to show the increased coverage over time, along with an up-to-date map of the expected rollout, by phase, for the remaining parts of the County. In order to avoid confusion, the baseline map published in August 2013 has been removed from the website.

Events

7. The programme has now commenced on-the-ground delivery with the launch of the first fibre optic cabinet in Collingham having been celebrated on 12 June 2014. The unveiling was attended by the Chair of the Economic Development Committee, British Telecom (BT), the Department for Communities and Local Government (the managing authority for the European Regional Development Fund Programme (ERDF)) and Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) who are all involved in the funding of the programme, along with the Deputy Leader from Newark and Sherwood District Council and the Collingham Division County Councillor.

£1 million Government Equality Office Women and Broadband fund

8. On 13 May 2014, the Government Minister for Women announced the Women and Broadband Challenge Fund. The Challenge Fund will be part of the Government's Superfast Broadband rollout and is intended to help women take full advantage of all the opportunities superfast broadband can bring to business. Nottinghamshire, along with other local broadband projects in England, were invited to submit bids to the £1m challenge fund.
9. Acting as accountable body, Derbyshire County Council submitted a bid on behalf of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire County Councils for a combined allocation of £150,000. This is the maximum amount of funding a local body can bid for from the Challenge Fund i.e. £75,000 per local body. The deadline for bids was 13th June.
10. If successful, funding from the Challenge Fund will see the development of a local project to support women-led businesses and potential women entrepreneurs in the County take advantage of superfast broadband to transform the way they do business or to set up new businesses from home. **No match funding is required by local bodies.**
11. If the application is approved, the Challenge Fund project is expected to start in September 2014. Updates on the Challenge Fund project will be shared (as appropriate), as part of the routine updates this Committee receives on the wider BBfN programme.

Phase One update

12. Mobilisation is a significant task but BT will be building off their existing commercial deployment and this will, in part determine the phasing. Each phase is planned and built to optimise the money we have available. There will be six fibre-based phases through the programme which will complete in 2016. Each phase is nine months in duration and has four distinct stages:

- **Pre-planning** – assessment of network resources
- **Prepare Exchange** – assess and plan the equipment and power requirements that are needed
- **Planning the Network** – carry out physical inspections of ducts and cabinets
- **Installation of network resources** – fibre and network deployment

13. Phase One began in April 2014. Surveys and detailed design are now complete and strong progress is being made with the actual building of the network expected to be completed during December 2014.

14. As of the end of June 2014, five cabinets have been installed, all of which are now ready for service and serve a combined total of 738 premises (see, *Table 1*). Two of these cabinets are in Newark (Collingham), one in Arnold and two in Mansfield.

Table 1: Phase 1 'Live' cabinets (as at 1 July 2014)

	Exchange Area	Location	Councillor	Local Authority Area	Parish & Town Council
1	Arnold	Gedling Road	Roy Allan Muriel Weisz	Gedling Borough Council	
2	Collingham	The Green	Maureen Dobson	Newark & Sherwood District Council	Collingham Parish Council
3		Woodhill Road			
4	Mansfield	Eakring Road	Stephen Garner Andy Sissons	Mansfield District Council	

15. This is obviously very good news for the County. In practical terms, this means that premises who wish to and who are sufficiently close to a new cabinet will now benefit from being able to access a fibre-based broadband service.

Phase Two expected Exchange level locations

16. Phase Two has just commenced with survey and detailed design taking place during the three-month period to September 2014. The network build will take place between the six-month period October 2014 to March 2015.

17. The expected sixteen Exchange level locations to be covered as part of Phase Two are illustrated in *Table 2* (below) by Exchange name and the respective County Councillor:

Table 2: Expected Phase Two Exchange Locations		
BT Exchange Name		Councillor(s)
1	Beeston	Steve Carr, Kate Foale
2	Bingham	Martin Suthers OBE
3	Bilsthorpe	Roger Jackson
4	Blyth	Sheila Place
5	East Bridgford	Kay Cutts MBE
6	East Leake	N/A – cross border
7	Hucknall	Alice Grice, John Wilkinson, John Wilmott
8	Farnsfield	Roger Jackson
9	Radcliffe on Trent	Kay Cutts MBE
10	Sandiacre	N/A – cross border
11	Misterton	Liz Yates
12	Saunby	N/A – cross border
13	Worksop	Sybil Fielding, Glynn Gilfoyle, Kevin Greaves & Alan Rhodes
14	Cotgrave	Richard Butler
15	Warsop	John Allin
16	Wymeswold	N/A – cross border

Superfast Extension Programme

18. On 4th June 2014 Policy Committee Members approved the submission of a full application to the Government for Superfast Extension Programme resources.
19. Members will recall that Nottinghamshire's additional allocation through the superfast extension of £2.63 million [£1.83m/£0.8m respectively to the county/city] is expected to extend the fibre-based network further and deliver faster speeds, with the hardest to reach locations amongst those who stand to benefit most. This additional boost will help business start-ups and job creation in some of the hardest to reach rural areas.
20. The submission of a formal application to the Government requires the County Council to be able to evidence that match funding commitments are in place. The Government will match local resources on a £ for £ basis. Therefore, if a commitment to the full £2.63m cannot be secured, the amount of Government funding available will decrease accordingly.
21. Every effort is currently being made to secure the full match funding allocation through the D2N2 Local Economic Partnership (D2N2 LEP) Local Growth Deal and future European funding allocation to the areas and at the 20th June City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee, that Committee agreed to:
- continue to lobby D2N2 to secure match funding resources through the Local Growth Deal;

- ii. express their collective willingness to find a solution to bridge any residual funding gap.

22. The County Council will shortly be conducting a second 'Open Market Review' which will provide up-to-date and accurate figures in terms of the extent and scope of the Superfast Extension Programme. The Open Market Review requests information from telecoms providers on their commercial roll-out plans over the next three years and analyses this against likely broadband speed outcomes by postcode.

23. This second Open Market Review will include investment planned through the existing Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire programme and will therefore provide a detailed picture of where the Superfast Extension investment is required.

Statutory and Policy Implications

24. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described in the report.

Financial Implications

25. As previously reported, the overall cost of the capital programme is £19.8 million (made up of £15.2m capital and £4.6m in BT Operating Expenditure).

26. The County Council approved its capital contribution of £2.15 million at Full Council on 15th December 2011. This forms part of the current capital programme to 2015-16. In addition to this, revenue funds of up to £450,000 were also approved to support the project management process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

27. That Economic Development Committee:

- i. notes this report, and;
- ii. notes the submission by Derbyshire County Council of the combined bid on behalf of both County Councils to the Women and Broadband Challenge Fund.

Report of the Corporate Director, Policy, Planning and Corporate Services, Jayne Francis-Ward

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Nicola M^cCoy Brown, 72580

Constitutional Comments

This report is for noting only.

Financial Comments [SEM 19/06/2014]

There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Reports

- Nottinghamshire Local Broadband Plan (www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/broadband)
- Nottinghamshire Local Broadband Plan – report to Full Council, 15-12-2011
- Update on Nottinghamshire Local Broadband Plan – report to Policy Committee, 20-06-2012
- Response to Petitions presented to Economic Development Committee – report to Economic Development Committee, 20-09-2012
- Nottinghamshire Local Broadband Plan – report to Full Council, 28-02-2013
- ERDF Funding Agreement, 14-05-2013
- Investing in Britain's future – Presented to Parliament by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury by Command of Her Majesty, 6-2013
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/209279/PU1524_IUK_new_template.pdf
- Superfast Broadband for Nottinghamshire – report to Policy Committee 17-07-2013
- Superfast Broadband for Nottinghamshire – report to Economic Development Committee 09-07-2013
- Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire – Resource Requirements for Delivery Phase – report to Economic Development Committee, 12-12-2013
- Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire – report to Economic Development Committee 14-01-2014
- Superfast Extension Programme indicative funding allocation letter – BDUK on behalf of the Department for Culture Media and Sports, 25-2-2014
- Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire – Superfast Extension Programme – report To Economic Development Committee, 11-03-2014
- Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire – Phase One – report to Economic Development Committee, 1-4-2014
- Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire Superfast Extension Programme – report to Policy Committee, 4-6-2014

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All