



minutes

Meeting	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Date	14 January 2014 (commencing at 2.00 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with `A`

COUNCILLORS

Diana Meale (Chairman)
Roy Allan (Vice-Chairman)

Ian Campbell
John Knight
John Ogle
Michael Payne

Keith Walker
Gordon Wheeler
Jason Zadrozny

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Mr M Chivers – Alliance Boots
Ms M Ulyatt (Federation of Small Businesses) **A**

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Martin Gately	-	Policy Planning and Corporate Services
Matthew Lockley	-	“ “
Celia Morris	-	“ “
Nicola McCoy-Brown	-	“ “

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Steve Henderson	-	BT Group General Manager
Phil King	-	BT Group Project Manager
[Other BT Officers/Engineers]		

MINUTES

RESOLVED 2014/001

The minutes of the last meeting held on 12 December 2013 were confirmed.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Melanie Ulyatt

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

MOBILE SHOWCASE VAN DEMONSTRATION AND FIBRE SPLICING WORKSHOP

Prior to consideration of the substantive item on the agenda, Members had the opportunity to visit BT's showcase van in order to see some of the applications that superfast broadband can provide. In addition, Members were also able to try their hand at splicing strands of fibre-optic cable using the special equipment brought along by BT.

BETTER BROADBAND FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

The Committee received a presentation from Steve Henderson, Regional Director – Next Generation Access, BT Group on the benefits to Nottinghamshire businesses of fibre broadband. Mr Henderson explained that BT's ambition was to support fibre networks to support economic, social and public benefit for everyone through economic growth and job creation, business transformation and supply chain efficiency, improved individual well-being resulting in a connected society, citizen and consumer empowerment for health, education and life with reduced costs, improved efficiency, more public services online and a fully connected region.

Mr Henderson also indicated that research based on rural, town and city case studies found that the roll-out of fibre broadband could create an increase of between 0.3 and 0.5% growth in GVA (Gross Value Added) over 15 years.

In further discussion, Members made the following points: that the demand for broadband was consumer driven and had not been foreseen by government; that as recently as the 1990s none of this infrastructure existed. In addition, it was noted that there was great potential for the development of domestic appliances which linked to the internet.

The Committee also received a further presentation from Nicola McCoy-Brown, Broadband Programme Manager for the County Council and Matt Lockley, Team Manager, Economic Development. Ms McCoy-Brown indicated that there were 187 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) structures in the deployment – targeting postcodes serving 6,257 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). These would be targeted for intervention first due to the need to draw down EU funding.

RESOLVED 2014/002

That the content of the report be noted.

WORK PROGRAMME

In discussion, Members agreed that the Economic Development Strategy – delivery plan and budget 2014-15 be deferred to the 11 March 2014 meeting.

RESOLVED 2014/003

That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 3.45 pm.

CHAIR