

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**RESPONSE TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
COUNTY COUNCIL ON 26 FEBRUARY 2015****Purpose of the report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Full Council of a decision made by the Economic Development Committee concerning issues raised in two petitions presented to the Chairman of the County Council at the Council meeting on 26th February 2015.

Information and advice

2. Two petitions were presented to Full Council at its meeting on 26th February 2015 by Councillor Sue Saddington relating to the provision of fibre broadband in the villages of Fiskerton-cum-Morton and Thorpe. The petition from Fiskerton-cum-Morton had 221 signatures and the petition from Thorpe had 46 signatures.
3. A report proposing a response to the petitions was considered at Economic Development Committee on 31st March 2015. The report outlined the issues relating to the provision of fibre broadband across Nottinghamshire and highlighted the Council's ongoing work to negotiate extended coverage through contract 2. It also referenced the technical and financial challenges of delivering fibre broadband to the two communities concerned.
4. Economic Development Committee agreed that the petitioners be notified that the County Council will continue to work towards maximum connectivity within the confines of the contractual agreement and financial envelope. Further, Economic Development Committee emphasised that the County Council and its partners will do all that they can to encourage take-up of fibre broadband services as higher take-up will activate the gain-share mechanism in the contract which will enable further investment in fibre broadband across the County.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

5. The Council's constitution requires petitions to be considered and responded to by the relevant Committee.

Statutory and Policy Implications

6. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service

users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described in the body of the report.

Financial Implications

7. None.

RECOMMENDATIONS

8. That the response to the petitions be noted.

Councillor Diana Meale
Chair of Economic Development Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 01.05.2015)

9. This report is for noting only.

Financial Comments (SES 01/05/2015)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Broadband Petitions; report to Economic Development Committee, 31st March 2015, published.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Farndon and Muskham, Councillor Sue Saddington.