

URGENT DECISION BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

This form **MUST** have an accompanying report attached.

Reference Number:	CEX / URGENT / 2020-003
Title of Report	GIGABIT BROADBAND VOUCHER SCHEME – TOP-UP
Department	PLACE
Relevant Committee	POLICY COMMITTEE
Date of next Committee Meeting	9 September 2020

Summary of Decision Sought (including reason/s)	<p>To recommend Nottinghamshire County Council participates in the Government's Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme (GBVS) by utilising the superfast broadband gainshare as a top-up.</p> <p>The demand stimulation activity for the proposed top-up voucher scheme would specifically target the premises that are currently unable to receive Superfast broadband speeds (>24 megabits per second/ Mbps). This equates to 345 residential premises and 65 business premises with poor or no broadband connectivity. Any unused part of our fund will remain with us.</p> <p>It is effectively an initiative that runs alongside the existing local full fibre network programme, providing our residents and business community greater choice of access to a gigabit-capable internet service provider (ISP) connection (equal to 1,000Mbps).</p> <p>An urgent decision is required which cannot wait until the next Policy Committee as Building Digital UK (BDUK), the DCMS arm supporting the delivery of broadband networks wishes to make a ministerial announcement at the beginning of September. It is therefore proposed that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) The Chief Executive agrees to use all the £750,000 gainshare from our original superfast broadband agreement (contract 1) with BT, to complement the Government's proposals for a Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme - Top-up, targeting properties classified as rural, hamlets and isolated dwellings2) Delegated authority is given to Nottinghamshire County Council's Section 151 Officer, in consultation with legal services, to sign a formal letter of agreement with DCMS committing the Council to delivering the programme
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Reason/s for urgency	Building Digital UK (BDUK) will be launching the top-up scheme in early September 2020. This means that BDUK need an immediate response as to whether Nottinghamshire County Council will sign a formal letter committing it to delivering the programme, as they wish to confirm this with the Department for Culture Media & Sport. Failure to sign the formal letter of agreement by 1 September 2020 will mean we are unable to
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	participate in the Government's Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme (GBVS).
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Date request / report received	26/08/2020	Date form originated	26/08/2020
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DETAILS OF CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN:

Councillors	Date	Signed	Proposed decision supported? (Yes / No)
Leader and Chair of Policy Cttee	26/08/2020	Approved via email	Yes
Leader/s of opposition group/s	27/08/2020	Cllr Rhodes – approved via email	Yes
	27/08/2020	Cllr Zadrozny – approved via email	Yes

If consultation has not been undertaken, please give reasons:	
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Approval from Chief Executive (or delegated Corporate Director in Chief Executive's absence)

Signed.......... Date.....27/8/2020.....

Please return completed form to Keith Ford, Democratic Services, x72590