

**18 November 2014****Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, POLICY, PLANNING AND  
CORPORATE SERVICES****BETTER BROADBAND FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE – QUARTERLY  
UPDATE ON THE ROLLOUT****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides an update on the Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire programme (BBFN) and progress being made towards the achievement of the County Council's target to secure 94.3% coverage of fibre-based broadband across Nottinghamshire by the end of 2016.
2. The report includes the latest news on the joint Nottinghamshire Local Authorities (including the City Council), European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) funded programme with BT, and proposals for an additional procurement initiative to accelerate coverage.

**Information and advice**

- 1) This report carries on from reports previously considered by Full Council, Policy Committee and Economic Development Committee regarding the BBfN programme and provides an update on the programme communications and progress to date.

Progress regarding on-the-ground delivery

- 2) Members will recall there are six fibre broadband phases (nine months in duration) planned for the BBfN programme. Following contract mobilisation and several months of detailed pre-planning, planning and on site survey work, the first part of the network build is firmly on track for completion by December 2014.
- 3) Already, households and businesses in a number of communities can now take advantage of fibre-based broadband services. These include speeds of up to 80Mbps depending on how far the property is located from its serving green street cabinet. Information on what is involved in planning and survey work and why the outcome may mean deployment plans could change, is explained on the FAQ page of the programme's website at [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/broadband](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/broadband)

- 4) Since the well-publicised launch of the first fibre cabinet in June 2014, 70 cabinets have gone 'live'. In October 2014 we announced that 10,000 residential and businesses premises are now able to access fibre-based broadband services as a result of the combined public sector co-investment with BT.
- 5) Parts of the following fifteen exchange locations have seen new green fibre cabinets installed: Arnold, Beeston, Burton Joyce, Collingham, Cotgrave, Hucknall, Kirkby in Ashfield, Lowdham, Mansfield, Newark, Ruddington, Southwell, Sutton in Ashfield, Trentside and Worksop. Each of these cabinets will have a sticker to help illustrate the availability of fibre-based broadband in the area, whilst acknowledging all funders under the contract by displaying their respective logo (see photograph in paragraph 6).
- 6) The photograph (below) is of Mansfield cabinet number 12, Hermitage Lane at the Junction of Kings Mill Way, Mansfield in Nottinghamshire which will serve an expected 112 premises.



- 7) Not all premises in these fifteen exchange locations will gain access in this first wave; some may come forward later in the programme when the network is extended further through additional investment. By the end of December 2014, around 25,110 premises will be passed in total. Residents and businesses will need to contact their internet service provider to find out about how to upgrade to a superfast service in these areas.
- 8) The network build continues to be extended to not only some of the existing fifteen exchange locations mentioned earlier but also covering parts of communities served by the following twenty four exchanges of: Bilsthorpe, Bingham, Bleasby, Blyth, Caunton, East Bridgford, East Leake, Farnsfield, Gotham, Kimberley, Kinoulton, Misterton, New Ollerton, Radcliffe on Trent, Rampton, Ranskill, Retford, Sandiacre, Saundby, Sutton on Trent, Warsop, Whatton, Woodborough and Wymeswold. That's over 107 new fibre cabinet

locations surveyed as part of this next wave. If all plans come forward, we should see close to 39,000 premises passed by fibre-based broadband by end of March 2015. See *Appendix A* for how many cabinets are currently planned for surveying and detailed design between the period October 2014 and December 2014 by exchange area and by elected member.

- 9) The roll out of fibre-based broadband with BT through the BBfN programme will continue until 2016. It is important to note that the County Council's programme is independent of BT's commercial plans and coverage decisions.

#### Extending Superfast coverage

- 10) On 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014, the County Council was allocated £2.63m from the £250m Phase 2 Superfast Extension Programme which will come into play from 2015. It is important that we can procure solutions now, to ensure early delivery once this funding is released. This is a very good indicative allocation in the context of the Government's targets to deliver 95% coverage nationally by 2017. However, it will not be sufficient, even though matched on a pound-for-pound basis to securing full coverage in this timescale. It is expected that close to 97% of Nottinghamshire premises (business and residential) will benefit from fibre-based broadband. Different technical solutions will need to be identified for the remaining premises that will not benefit.
- 11) As confirmed to the City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2014, the County Council has secured the full £2.63m from the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership through its Strategic Economic Plan. The successful supplier would be required to commit significant capital investment towards the roll out extension. The scale of leverage would be determined through the procurement process.

#### Complementary activities

- 12) The Facebook page [www.facebook.com/nottinghamshirebroadband](http://www.facebook.com/nottinghamshirebroadband) continues to gain momentum and currently has 191 'friends'. 'Friends' are being invited to snap, edit and share their photographs with the hashtag #hugacabinet
- 13) At the end of July 2014, an Aide Memoire was distributed to all elected members (including District and Borough Councilors) to help with questions members may receive regarding the evolving BBfN programme.
- 14) Alongside the physical build works a programme of demand stimulation is being developed. This will be ramped up as the network is rolled out and more and more areas 'go live' across the County. Energies will be focussed on: raising awareness about the availability of superfast services as they are deployed; promoting messages about the benefits which access can bring; and raising understanding, particularly for business, about how technology can be applied to transform business performance and growth. A BBfN Business initiative will be launched later in the year part-financed by the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (D2N2 LEP) to support this including workshops, mentoring and small grants to support training, investment in new technology, and connectivity.

This will be reported in more detail to a future meeting of the Economic Development Committee.

- 15) The County Council will also be working with its business partners including D2N2 LEP, the Nottinghamshire Business Engagement Group (NBEG) and its cross-border partner Derbyshire County Council, to build up local showcases so businesses in different sectors can learn from each other about how applications supported by superfast broadband, can be applied to secure business efficiencies, support new ways to reach customers and suppliers, and increase business productivity.
- 16) The BBfN programme team also routinely responds to enquiries by email via [enquiries.broadband@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries.broadband@nottscc.gov.uk). Since April 2014, a total of 165 enquiries have been managed. The regular distribution of the stakeholder bulletin on BBfN continues to be issued to all County Councillors, the district and borough councils, all town and parish councils and other interested stakeholders. For the 1400+ 'email me' subscribers, a monthly newsletter is issued (which is also available for download from the website).

### Consultation

- 17) Consultation on the intervention area for the existing contract with BT was undertaken in the summer of 2012 and was approved as sound by the Government's National Competency Centre for the UK Broadband State Aid Scheme.
- 18) Based on the 2012 consultation, the County Council anticipated that about 86% of the County should be served commercially to secure access to superfast broadband by 2015. There has always been the risk that if commercial plans do not come forward as envisaged, that the scale and scope of localities in the County which may still require coverage could change. This could increase or decrease the scale of the challenge we face to secure close to 94.3% coverage by 2016.
- 19) Work is now underway to define the eligible area of intervention for the next proposed procurement. As a precursor to the formal public consultation document, during the summer, an Open Market Review (OMR) was undertaken. This engagement with the telecommunications market is assisting us with understanding the existing broadband infrastructure and will help identify where there are definite plans for investment in the coming three years.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

- 20) 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 below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Financial Implications**

- 21) As previously reported, the overall capital cost of the capital programme is £15.2 million.
- 22) Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire builds on BT's £2.5 billion commercial roll-out of fibre-based broadband across the UK. The County Council has already secured £4.5m from BDUK and has itself (at Full Council on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011) committed £2.15m in the period up to 2016 through the contract with BT. This will support the achievement of our 94.3% superfast coverage target by 2016, when combined with the private sector's expected commercial roll-out of fibre broadband plans. The ERDF funds (£2.76m) and BDUK funds (£4.5m) are being drawn down first, with County Council and Nottinghamshire local authorities (including the City Council) investment expected to come into play in two instalments: the first from April 2015 and the second from April 2016.
- 23) In addition to this, revenue funds of up to £450,000 were previously approved to support the project management process, as was a demand stimulation budget which currently stands at £100,000 (£50,000 previously approved by this Committee and £50,000 from D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership) and the recent approval of £43,034 towards the resourcing of the demand stimulation requirements.
- 24) Further resource requirements for the demand stimulation programme will be assessed ahead of Committee's consideration of its delivery plan and budget for 2015-16 in March 2015.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 25) That Economic Development Committee:
- a) Welcomes the excellent progress being made in partnership with BT on the roll out of fibre-based broadband towards the project's 2016 coverage target, including the first areas to 'go live' and good progress towards the next phase.
  - b) Welcomes the announcement of securing local 'like-for-like' match-funding commitment for the full £2.63m from the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership through its Local Growth Deal.
  - c) Notes that it is the intention to seek approval through Policy Committee to take forward procurement in 2015 to extend coverage further

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

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Nicola M<sup>c</sup>Coy Brown, 72580

## **Constitutional Comments**

This report is for noting only.



## Financial Comments [SEM 06.11.2014]

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](http://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](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
- UK Broadband Impact Study – Impact Report, SQW, 11-2013  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/257006/UK\\_Broadband\\_Impact\\_Study\\_-\\_Impact\\_Report\\_-\\_Nov\\_2013\\_-\\_Final.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/257006/UK_Broadband_Impact_Study_-_Impact_Report_-_Nov_2013_-_Final.pdf)
- 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
- Update on D2N2 Strategic Economic Plan and Local Growth Deal – report to Economic Development Committee, 1-7-2014
- Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire – Additional Staffing Resource – report to Economic Development Committee, 16-09-2014

### Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

## Appendix A: Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire programme - What's coming next?

So far the Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire programme has delivered an additional 70 new fibre cabinets from 15 different exchange areas across the county with plenty more to come. By March 2015 it is estimated that a total of 39,082 premises will be passed by a fibre-based broadband network involving the roll out of over 300 new fibre cabinets. The table below details how many cabinets are currently planned to be surveyed between October and the end of December 2014 (broken down by exchange area):

	Exchange Locations	No. of cabinets to be surveyed		Exchange Locations	No. of cabinets to be surveyed
1	Arnold	1	25	Lowdham	1
2	Bawtry	1	26	Mansfield	1
3	Bingham	1	27	Misterton	1
4	Bleasby	1	28	Nether Broughton	2
5	Blidworth	1	29	Newark	1
6	Blyth	1	30	Pinxton	1
7	Burton Joyce	1	31	Pleasley	1
8	Caunton	1	32	Radcliffe On Trent	1
9	Collingham	1	33	Rampton	3
10	Cotgrave	1	34	Ranskill	5
11	Dunham-On-Trent	1	35	Ruddington	1
12	East Leake	1	36	Sandiacre	1
13	East Stoke	2	37	Saundby	1
14	Edwinstowe	8	38	Sherwood	1
15	Farnsfield	2	39	Southwell	1
16	Gamston	1	40	Sturton-Le-Steeple	3
17	Gedling	3	41	Sutton In Ashfield	1
18	Gotham	3	42	Sutton On Trent	2
19	Harby	2	43	Trentside	1
20	Hathern	1	44	Tuxford	5
21	Kegworth	3	45	Whatton	1
22	Kimberley	2	46	Woodborough	1
23	Kinoulton	1	47	Worksop	1
24	Kirkby In Ashfield	1			