
Report to Council

Date of Meeting: 24 October 2013

Subject: Next Generation Broadband

Report by: Director of Finance & Corporate Services

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to update Council on progress in the Scottish Government's Digital Infrastructure Programme and to inform Council of the levels of Next Generation Broadband coverage which will be achieved in Clackmannanshire.

2.0 Recommendations

It is recommended that Council;

- 2.1 Notes that the Council's capital investment of £300k in the Next Generation Broadband Programme is anticipated to take overall fibre coverage in Clackmannanshire to over 99% of premises (paragraph 3.9).

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1. Clackmannanshire Council approved a new ICT Strategy in October 2012. One of the stated aims of the Strategy was "to improve connectivity and access to services for the citizens of Clackmannanshire."
- 3.2. One of the actions arising within the ICT Strategy was to "improve access to Information Technology for the Community by working with Government, external agencies and commercial providers to improve the quality and availability of broadband services for domestic and residential properties in Clackmannanshire."
- 3.3. The Scottish Government's Step Change programme aims to achieve a step change by 2015 seeking a significant uplift in speeds for everyone by 2015, with speeds of 40 - 80Mbps for between 85% to 90% of premises.
- 3.4. To deliver the Step Change Programme, the Scottish Government undertook a procurement exercise to purchase the installation of infrastructure to supply Next Generation Broadband (NGB) in areas of market failure.

- 3.5. Local Authorities were invited to commit to a Local Contribution to extend broadband coverage beyond the level which would be covered by the national procurement.
- 3.6. Clackmannanshire Council committed in principle to a local contribution at the Council meeting of December 2012, with the funding prioritised to support hard to reach communities, especially in the Hillfoots. Clackmannanshire is one of 14 Local Authorities supporting the project with a local contribution.
- 3.7. Following engagement with the Scottish Government, investment of £300K was approved in the Capital Programme in support of the Next Generation Broadband programme.
- 3.8. The Scottish Government announced on 9th July 2013 that a contract had been awarded to BT for the provision of fibre broadband.
- 3.9. The investment by Clackmannanshire Council is expected to take overall fibre coverage in Clackmannanshire to over 99% of premises. This investment will ensure that Clackmannanshire is one of the best covered areas in the UK in terms of high speed broadband.
- 3.10. The national rollout programme will begin early in 2014 with locations being announced on a quarterly basis thereafter. The entire programme is scheduled to be complete in 2017.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1. There are no sustainability implications arising directly from this report.

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. Financial Details

- 5.2. The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. Yes

- 5.3. Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes

5.4. Staffing

- 5.5. There are no staffing implications arising directly from this report.

6.0 Exempt Reports

- 6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box)

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| The area has a positive image and attracts people and businesses | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Our communities are safer | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vulnerable people and families are supported | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Substance misuse and its effects are reduced | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The environment is protected and enhanced for all | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

ICT Strategy 2012-2017

8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes No

9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

None

11.0 Background Papers

11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes (please list the documents below) No

Report to Clackmannanshire Council December 2012 - Next Generation Broadband

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Approved by

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