

Scrutiny Committee

Report of the Director of Development and Corporate Resources

Meeting to be held on 11 December 2015

Electoral Division affected: ALL

Lancashire Superfast Broadband Programme – Interim Update

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

The report provides an interim position on the progress of the current Superfast Broadband project, planning for the Superfast Extension programme and further opportunities for domestic and business premises to access Superfast Broadband. This information will be made available in the form of a presentation to the meeting.

Recommendation

That the contents of the report and presentation be noted.

Background and Advice

Superfast Broadband (SFBB) refers to a range of measures to ensure businesses and consumers are best able to exploit the benefits of high speed broadband connections. Through Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK), the government has defined SFBB as a speed of not less than 24Mbs. Mbs stands for Megabits and is the expression used to measure broadband speeds.

Public investment can only be made in support of the extension of Superfast Broadband in those areas with deemed market failure, which is considered to be postcodes with no provider of Superfast Broadband services. In Lancashire, this mainly constitutes rural areas, although not exclusively.

The current Lancashire Superfast Broadband programme, which will deliver access to Superfast Broadband to 130,000+ premises, started in 2013 and is now coming to an end. The Superfast Extension programme will start in the New Year and deliver Superfast access to another 12,000+ premises. These programmes will run in parallel to commercial activity delivered by BT and other providers, such as B4RN, and should result in 99% of Lancashire premises having access to Superfast Broadband by the end of 2017.

The presentation will set out the detail and achievements of the current programme, provide further information on the planning and implementation of the Superfast Extension Programme, and highlight a number of other initiatives that will be utilised to support further access to and use of Superfast Broadband in Lancashire. Paper copies of the presentation will be made available at the meeting.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

N/A

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
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