

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Executive Decision Record**

Decision Maker:	Hampshire Economic Board
Date:	16 February 2011
Title:	Broadband Project: Next Steps
Reference:	2659
Report From:	Director of Economic Development

Contact name: Alison Quant

Tel: 01962 845099

Email: alison.quant@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision: (PROPOSED)

- a) That the following be endorsed as key priorities for the next six months:
- (i) the submission of a good quality bid to Broadband Delivery UK for an infrastructure grant in April 2011 and the development of the County Council's relationship with them;
 - (ii) delivery of the Little London Pilot;
 - (iii) further development of the business case, funding strategy and business model following the results of market testing, to include a local authority financing/risk share model; and
 - (iv) subject to the outcome of the Broadband Delivery UK bid, initiation of the procurement of superfast broadband infrastructure in rural areas.
- b) That a draft Hampshire Digital Strategy be developed to support the bid to Broadband Delivery UK, to include the strategy for delivering public services online and proposals for digital inclusion.
- c) That a campaign for securing support for the bid and mobilising demand be initiated.

2. Reason for the decision:

- 2.1. To agree the next steps in the development of this project, particularly in the light of the recently published National Broadband Strategy and associated Broadband Delivery UK grant funding to support rural areas.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. To continue with the priorities and options for project development previously agreed. This would miss the opportunity to take advantage of Government support. It would also necessitate a higher risk approach for the County Council.
- 3.2. Not to develop a Hampshire Digital Strategy because of the resource implications. This would reduce the prospects of securing grant support and reduce economic and social opportunities for Hampshire businesses and residents.
- 3.3. Not to continue seeking to develop a solution to support urban areas with poor services if they are ineligible for grant funding. This would disadvantage some Hampshire residents and businesses.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: none.
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: none.

5. Dispensation granted by the Standards Committee: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by: -----	Date: 16 February 2011
Chairman of the Hampshire Economic Board Councillor T K Thornber CBE	

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