

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Executive Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	28 February 2011
<b>Title:</b>	Broadband Project : Future Management Arrangements
<b>Reference:</b>	2634
<b>Report From:</b>	Chief Executive, Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services, County Treasurer and Director of Economic Development

**Contact name:** Alison Quant

**Tel:** 01962 845099

**Email:** alison.quant@hants.gov.uk

#### 1. The decision: **(PROPOSED)**

- a) That the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services takes on the broadband infrastructure project sponsor role, supported by the County Treasurer with regard to the funding strategy and the Head of IT on digital inclusion and technology matters.
- b) That a full-time project director, at the appropriate level, be appointed for two years, funded from the final tranche of Local Authority Business Growth Incentives funding allocated to the Economic Development Budget in the three year period from 2010/11 to 2012/13.
- c) That a Hampshire Digital Strategy be prepared which addresses online services and digital inclusion, for future consideration by Cabinet and the Hampshire Senate.

#### 2. Reason for the decision:

- 2.1. The Director of Economic Development, who is the current project sponsor, will shortly retire, while the resourcing requirements for the project are increasing following the publication of the Government's National Broadband Strategy and allocation of significant resources through a competitive bidding process. Effective successor and resourcing arrangements need to be put in place to maintain project progress and the best prospects of securing external funding support and speedy delivery.

**3. Other options considered and rejected:**

- 3.1. To progress the project within the current resourcing envelope and without any senior level project management direction. This would risk project delivery and reduce the prospects of securing external funding support.
- 3.2. To transfer project responsibility to the Director of Environment, alongside other economic development functions and responsibilities. The broadband project has been led by the Economic Development office because of the importance of superfast broadband to businesses in poorly served rural areas. However, the benefits of superfast broadband have far wider community benefits and significance in the delivery of online public services in Hampshire.
- 3.3. To procure externally provided project management resources. This might provide more speedy project resources and could provide access to wide-ranging expertise. Conversely, the cost over the life of the project would be likely to be higher and it would be more difficult to engage with other connected projects within the organisation, such as the delivery of the HPSN2 contract and the Customer Access Strategy.

**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:**

<b>Approved by:</b>  -----  <b>Chairman of the Cabinet Councillor T K Thornber, CBE</b>	<b>Date:</b>  <b>28 February 2011</b>
---	---

Decn/2634/AQ