

PUBLIC NOTICE**THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS) (MEETINGS AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2012 ('the Regulations')****REGULATION 10 - KEY DECISIONS**

Regulation 10 (general exception) allows for a key decision to be made if it is impracticable for notice of the intention to take a key decision under Regulation 9 to be given 28 clear days in advance of the taking of the decision. Regulation 10 sets out the actions required to be taken in those circumstances which include giving public notice at least five working days before the decision is taken.

The Executive Member for Policy and Resources intends to take a key decision on a project to extend the availability of Superfast Broadband services in Hampshire at a meeting on 12 December 2013 at 2.00pm at The Castle, Winchester.

The report recommends that the Council releases up to £9.2million of capital funding to enable an increase in the availability of Superfast Broadband from around 90% of premises in Hampshire (at the conclusion of the current programme) to around 95% of premises by the end of 2017. The sum to be made available for this project is consistent with the capital provision previously earmarked by the Council for an extension of Superfast Broadband and the proposed expenditure may be offset in part by other funds that become available to the Council. The approach set out in the report is consistent with the current strategy and procurement arrangements established by Government. The recommendations also refer to an effective marketing strategy and to the practical support that the Council may be able to extend to those remaining residents and businesses that will not be able to access commercial Superfast Broadband services.

It was impracticable to give the required 28 days notice of the Executive Member for Policy and Resources' intention to take this key decision due to ongoing dialogue to determine a budgetary estimate for the gross cost of enabling additional coverage and the need to secure an early decision that will enable the Council to undertake a further call-off (procurement) process using the Government's framework arrangement for Superfast Broadband. The current framework has yet to be extended or replaced by Government so the aim will be to complete a new procurement before the end date of the current arrangement in June 2014.

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