

REPORT OF THE
Leader/Cabinet

PART II

61. EXTENDING SUPERFAST BROADBAND COVERAGE IN HAMPSHIRE

1. On 12 December 2013, the Executive Member for Policy and Resources approved an extension of superfast broadband services (>24Mbps) within Hampshire to 95% of premises, to increase coverage by more than 27,000 premises over and above the current delivery target. He furthermore approved the release of up to £9.2 million of capital funds earmarked by the County Council for the purpose of extending the Hampshire superfast Broadband Programme and noted the intention to work with a private sector partner to develop an effective marketing strategy. The Executive Member resolved to receive further reports on the developing availability of superfast broadband services within Hampshire and on opportunities to increase coverage beyond 95% in line with the overall aims and objectives expressed by Cabinet and also approved the concept of a 'privately funded' extension (in effect going beyond 95%) where there is sufficient demand.

2. The Government has facilitated a national programme designed to make superfast broadband services available to premises that would not be served through the normal working of the commercial market. The initial target for the programme was to reach 90% of premises by 2015. In March 2013, the County Council (like others) entered into a contract through the Department of Culture, Media and Sport's (DCMS) Framework with BT to improve the fibre infrastructure in Hampshire so that 90% of premises will be able to access superfast broadband with speeds of at least 24 megabits per second (Mbps). Work has commenced and is expected to be completed by the end of 2015.

3. In the summer of 2013 the target was extended to 95% of premises having access to superfast broadband with that work commencing as soon as the 90% target is reached and the Government committed to exploring the measures needed to reach at least 99% by 2018. Members of the County Council have expressed strong support for a further extension of superfast broadband in Hampshire, in particular through the approval of capital spending in February 2013 to support a range of schemes that included additional broadband coverage.

4. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has recently published a report highlighting the benefits of the broadband initiative to the UK economy as a whole. The report indicates that the current interventions in broadband offer an 'unusually high' rate of return for a public investment (approximately £20 in net economic impact for every £1 of public spending). In a large rural county, many of the benefits and observations identified in the Government's report will apply. Estimates show that the cost to public funds of extending superfast broadband to 95% of premises using the established contractual arrangements would be between £8.7 million and £9.2 million. Further extension would currently be very much higher and the value for money achieved may be questioned, therefore the Council will want to consider any alternative options that may become available under the new national strategy.

5. Further details can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm by typing in the relevant reference number:
- Extending Superfast Broadband Coverage in Hampshire (5467)

62. ENERGY PERFORMANCE PROJECT PHASE 1

1. On 24 January 2014, the Executive Member for Policy and Resources resolved that an Energy Performance Programme (EPP) be designed and delivered to the top 25 energy consuming buildings in the corporate estate. This is to be funded from Capital Allocations already budgeted for Energy related projects in the 2013/14 Capital Programme. Furthermore that a capital allocation of £1.42 million including fees is set aside for the Energy Performance Project for delivery of the design and construction work in 2013/14 and 2014/15. This decision followed prior consideration and recommendation by the Buildings Land and Procurement Panel.

2. An Energy Performance Project (EPP) across the County Council's corporate built estate, including libraries, offices, older persons and nursing care homes fits well with the corporate initiative Transforming the Council 2015 and will contribute to revenue cost reductions and building environment improvements for staff and service users.

3. This project will install various measures and technologies on a building by building basis across several sites in order to reduce energy consumption by increasing the efficiency of energy use and reducing energy waste. Associated carbon reductions and energy cost savings will also be made as a direct consequence of implementing these measures. Typical measures might include high efficiency lighting, automated lighting control, heating controls and roof insulation.

4. Phase 1 of the Energy Performance Project will focus on 25 of the County Council's highest energy consuming sites within its corporate estate, and will commence early in financial year 2014/15. Later phases will address remaining sites across the corporate estate, and will consider extending the Project to schools and other external organisations.

5. Further details can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm by typing in the relevant reference number:

- Energy Performance Project Phase 1 (5449)

COUNCILLOR ROY PERRY
Executive Member for Policy and Resources