

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Executive Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
<b>Date:</b>	23 July 2015
<b>Title:</b>	Superfast Broadband in Hampshire – Getting Connected
<b>Reference:</b>	6664
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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#### 1. The decision:

That the Executive Member for Policy and Resources:

- 1.1 Notes good progress on the delivery of Wave 1 of the Hampshire Superfast Broadband programme and the improvement in the position reported on new housing developments.
- 1.2 Approves the on-going actions to improve the 'Futureproofing' of new housing developments:
  - (i) Working with key stakeholders to encourage wider provision of infrastructure to support superfast broadband.
  - (ii) Promoting guidance and developments in legislation to the industry and local planning authorities that will enhance the policy framework and result in greater provision of superfast services.
  - (iii) Collating and publishing information about new housing developments that is relevant to new home buyers.
- 1.3 Approves the proposals contained in the report for a Community Self-Funding Support scheme and in particular:
  - (i) The principle of 50:50 match-funding up to a maximum contribution from the County Council of £500/premise served.
  - (ii) The integration of the delivery of the proposed scheme with Contract 2 (2016-2018).
  - (iii) The opportunity for other partners to take part in the scheme by providing additional funds to supplement the initial pot of £0.4 million.

- (iv) Expressions of interest to be invited from eligible communities during an initial window of three months from 01 November 2015.
  - (v) The Director of the Culture, Communities and Business Services Department be granted delegated authority to administer the scheme on behalf of the County Council.
- 1.4 Advises the Hampshire Partnership of the work being undertaken with the development industry and seeks the adoption of the guidance notes produced for local planning authorities by the Partnership.
- 1.5 The Chief Executive makes further representations to the Law Society seeking the Society's agreement to a conveyancing protocol featuring:
- a. The inclusion of information on the speed and availability of broadband services in the standard information that must be provided by sellers as part of preliminary searches and enquiries in the package of draft contract information for the conveyancer acting for the prospective buyer at the outset of the conveyancing process.
  - b. The Law Society to be requested to provide advice for solicitors to encourage purchasers to raise this question where this information is not provided.

**2. Reason(s) for the decision:**

- 2.1. The County Council is working to support a very substantial increase in the availability of superfast broadband across Hampshire (more than 98,000 premises in total). BT's main delivery programme (>95% superfast) is now expected to be complete by September 2018, but the County Council's involvement is likely to stretch beyond this date as a result of national and local initiatives to lift coverage beyond 95%. Detailed proposals for the 'near universal' coverage anticipated by Government have yet to be developed. In the interim, the Council is seeking to use its influence and leverage to get better broadband for residents where developers and service providers have so far been unable to satisfy the expectations of the public.

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

- 3.1. Not applicable.

**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 Conduct Advisory Panel: none.**

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

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

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23 July 2015

Executive Member for Policy and Resources  
Councillor R Perry