

EXECUTIVE– 5 JUNE 2013

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE **RE: SUPER FAST BROADBAND INVESTMENT**

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL RURAL WARDS

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To seek Members' approval to the under spend from this year's Parish and Community Initiative Fund (PCIF) towards investment in super fast broadband (SFBB).

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

The Executive:-

- i) approve the allocation of £18,820 under spend from the 2013/14 PCIF as an additional contribution to funding from this Council to support the delivery of super fast broadband in rural areas.
- (ii) note Scrutiny Commission's comments regarding SFBB funding.

3. **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

- 3.1 The proposal from Executive briefing that any under spend on the PCIF be allocated towards additional improvements in SFBB was presented to Scrutiny Commission for comment, along with the PCIF grant allocations, on 8 May 2013.
- 3.2 Due to the withdrawal of one application, the under spend for 2013/14 will be £18,820.
- 3.3 Scrutiny Commission was supportive of the use of the under spend for 2013/14 but were not supportive of any reduction in the PCIF budget in future years.
- 3.4 Scrutiny Commission also requested a further report detailing how SFBB was being progressed, what benefits the additional funding would bring to the rural areas of the Borough, and how value for money would be determined.
- 3.5 Further work will be undertaken by officers to assess the value to be derived from additional investment in SFBB and the governance arrangements with LCC for this funding.

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (TO)**

Further work is required in order to establish the capital and revenue implications of this report. Depending upon the final outcome, any expenditure will need to be authorised in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

Additional funding may be available towards this project.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)

None raised directly by this report.

6. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

SFBB contributes to the aim of increasing access to services in rural areas.

7. CONSULTATION

In early 2012 the County Council conducted a countywide survey to help identify problem areas and demand for SFBB. The online survey, which was promoted through a range of media including for Hinckley and Bosworth the Parish Councils directly, Parishes Forum and Community Forums, received 4622 responses, of which 402 were from the Hinckley and Bosworth locality. The County Council webpage provides ongoing information on broadband provision and plans in the County. The webpage is available at www.leics.gov.uk/broadband

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

The risks of this additional funding proposal will be fully considered by officers working when working with LCC to agree the governance arrangements for SFBB.

9. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

SFBB will bring benefits to the rural economy and residents living in these areas.

10. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning Implications
- Voluntary Sector

Background papers: None

Contact Officer: Steve Atkinson (ext 5606)

Executive Member: Cllr Bill Crooks