ADUR & WORTHING
C O U N C I L S

Key Decision [Yes/~~No~~]

Ward(s) Affected: All

Enabling the Digital Future for Adur & Worthing: Extending Ultrafast

Report by the Director for Digital & Resources

Executive Summary

1. **Purpose**

   1.1. This report provides an overview of the significant opportunity available to Adur & Worthing Councils, in partnership with West Sussex County Council, to further extend our ultrafast public connectivity, by connecting additional community premises, community libraries, adult social care settings, sheltered housing, leisure facilities, CCTV, and the fibre points needed to deliver an extensive ultrafast public WiFi scheme.

   1.2. A total of 31 local authority sites in Adur & Worthing (county council, district and borough sites) are already in the process of being upgraded to ultrafast speeds using 'optical fibre to the premise', with construction scheduled to complete in June 2019. This report proposes the connection of an additional 56 district and borough sites across Adur and Worthing.

   1.3. Independently of our ambitions for greater digital connectivity across our public space and buildings, telecommunications supplier CityFibre has announced its commitment to invest commercially in building its

bespoke 'fibre to the home' network in Adur & Worthing. This would see all premises able to access gigabit-capable broadband infrastructure by 2022, subject to the purchase of a broadband package in the usual way.

1.4.   The report also outlines our development work to deliver ultrafast public WiFi, 4G/5G small cells and an Internet of Things network. With Adur & Worthing on course to having by far the most extensive and dense fibre network in the south east of the country, we have a huge opportunity to attract further government and commercial investment.

2.   Recommendations

2.1.   It is recommended that the Joint Strategic Committee:

i)   Approve a call-off of additional 56 fibre connections in Adur & Worthing on a 30 year lease basis, using the West Sussex Gigabit Framework Agreement.

ii)   Recommend to the Councils to approve an increase to the capital budget of £2.55m to fund the proposed extension of the network, funded through external grants and contributions split as follows Adur: £1.02m and Worthing: £1.53m.

iii)   Notes that in the event that external funding is not secured, that the Councils may have to borrow to fund the capital works and that this would result in committing the Councils to additional net revenue spend of up to £105,030 per year from 2020/21 onwards (Adur: £42,010, Worthing: £63,020).

iv)   Notes the work being undertaken with consultants to create an ambitious digital infrastructure programme, exploring the benefits to local businesses, communities and residents of a widespread public WiFi scheme, next generation CCTV, an Internet of Things network, and a 5G strategic prospectus.

v)   Notes that a progress report will be presented to the Committee in July 2019 to confirm how the proposed extension to the fibre network will be funded, and the extent of any additional revenue spend required by the Councils.

3. Context

3.1. Adur & Worthing Councils have shown strong strategic leadership in recent years in relation to future digital infrastructure for our places. Recognising early on that ultrafast full fibre would provide critical foundations for the future, work during 2017-18 brought together local authorities across the County to create Gigabit West Sussex - the first nationally funded fibre scheme by the Department for Digital Culture, Media and Sport, attracting £4.6m.

3.2. In May 2018, West Sussex County Council awarded a contract for gigabit capable dark fibre infrastructure (optical fibre in the ground) to Cityfibre. Network construction in 8 West Sussex towns is now well progressed, with completion expected in June 2019, connecting local authority buildings with 1000Mb/s speeds on a revenue neutral basis (most buildings previously had 10Mb or 100Mb connections).

3.3. Adur and Worthing Councils have been working further with West Sussex County Council to maximise the benefits of gigabit-capable full fibre infrastructure by achieving greater coverage.

3.4. The key recommendation herein, is to approve a call-off for an additional 56 sites owned by either Adur (24) or Worthing (32) Councils. West Sussex County Council are in the process of identifying their own sites to include in the call-off. The site list includes council and community premises, libraries, adult social care settings, sheltered housing, leisure facilities and CCTV sites, delivering ultrafast speeds for an even wider range of public benefits, including the foundations for a public WiFi proposition which is currently in development.

3.5. Independently of our ambitions for greater digital connectivity across our public space and buildings, telecommunications supplier CityFibre has announced its commitment to invest commercially in building its bespoke 'fibre to the home' network for Adur & Worthing. This would see all premises able to access gigabit-capable broadband infrastructure by 2022, subject to the purchase of a broadband package in the usual way.

3.6. The announcement by CityFibre supports the ambition shared by the councils to encourage greater coverage of gigabit-capable full fibre connectivity to support our economy by attracting and retaining businesses and supporting new businesses to develop, as well as providing the highest quality of digital opportunities for our residents.

3.7.　CityFibre's engineering programme will be extensive and will include all town centre and residential streets over a minimum of two years in timescale. In order to minimise disruption to roads and footpaths, engineering will be carried out in tandem with work to connect public buildings along main routes.

3.8.　Adur & Worthing Council's Chief Executive and Director for Digital & Resources have been working closely with West Sussex County Council and the other district and borough councils to develop a digital infrastructure strategy for the whole county, with the ambition to deliver *Ultrafast Everywhere*.

3.9.　In December 2018, the Government announced that West Sussex councils had been successful in their joint application to the business rate retention pilot scheme for 2019/20, with a forecasted £19m to be used for investment in full fibre infrastructure across the county.

3.10.　Together, West Sussex councils have identified a number of different strategies to deliver *Ultrafast Everywhere* given the different challenges across the county. For Adur & Worthing, and other towns such as Crawley, Chichester and Horsham, the identified strategy is to create **denser** fibre networks by extending coverage to additional public sector sites.

3.11.　Creating a dense fibre network in Adur & Worthing is a massive outcome in itself, but there is much more that can be done to build on such foundations. Working with West Sussex colleagues, the Director for Digital & Resources recently commissioned expert consultants to help develop a package of additional propositions to assist with our digital placemaking ambitions. The following work is underway:

3.12.　WiFi survey and design work has been undertaken across Adur & Worthing to map "Public WiFi zones" including both central and secondary shopping areas across Adur & Worthing, seafront and outdoor event locations (see the maps in Appendix A). We know our town centres and shopping parades need support to increase footfall, dwell time and that local retailers will welcome potential opportunities for "WiFi marketing" to a large audience. The council owned sites covered by this report have been selected to provide the fibre infrastructure to support an ambitious wide-scale public WiFi network, and we are currently developing delivery models and investment options for the network.

3.13.   Working with our consultants, we will also be developing a strategy paper to help position Adur & Worthing for future commercial and government investment and partnership. One of the key barriers to the deployment of 4G (the 'not spots') and 5G small cells is the lack of fibre infrastructure. With Adur & Worthing on course to having the most extensive fibre network in the south east of the country, we are creating an attractive proposition for additional digital investment which we must capitalise on. We will also be examining the prospect of using our connected public assets for 4G/5G small cells and possible revenue generating models.

3.14.   In further work, we will be reviewing best practice for Internet of Things (IoT) networks. These networks allow remote sensors (temperature, humidity, air quality etc) to be deployed and their readings monitored. We will explore implementation options and develop proposals for exemplar projects, potentially in some of our public services, such as street bins (needs emptying?), or car park spaces (space available?).

4.   Issues for consideration

4.1.   The Gigabit West Sussex Framework Agreement is readily accessible to Adur & Worthing Councils, and indeed many other public sector bodies, and is fully State Aid compliant.

4.2.   The overall fibre construction scheme described here is a very extensive project and will cause some disruption in our communities. The West Sussex Digital Infrastructure Team has significant experience in managing such programmes and has proved to be very effective in responding to and resolving issues. There is close cooperation and coordination between communications teams.

4.3.   The call-off of additional sites is expected to cost in the region of £2.5m for a 30 year right to use. A good number of sites have connectivity spend associated with them, which will be used to help fund the scheme. Submissions for grant funding are planned within the next few weeks for the remainder (£2.2m), with the aim of achieving a revenue neutral scheme.

5.   Engagement and Communication

5.1.   Subject to Committee approval to the call-off, the Director for Digital & Resources will ensure that network designs and construction schedules

are shared with elected members in a timely fashion, providing for effective communications with residents.

5.2. The Adur & Worthing Council communications team will work in close liaison with West Sussex County Council and Cityfibre to ensure timely and clear messaging during the programme.

6.   Financial Implications

6.1. The expected cost of connecting the further 56 sites is £2.5m for a 30 year right to use.

6.2. In addition, City fibre are seeking to use one of the Councils' premises for a Point of Presence data centre (PoP). Currently the most viable location is the Ladydell Depot. However to relocate existing staff out of the depot will initially cost £50,000 as container storage would need to be acquired for the depot at Commerce Way and some minor adaptations would be required. CityFibre would pay an annual rental for the space which is currently being negotiated.

6.3. Consequently, the full cost of the project will be:

	£
Cost of extended network	2,500,000
Cost of additional storage	50,000
Total capital spend	2,550,000

6.4. External funding for this project is being actively sought at present.

6.5. The Councils currently pay for access to a Wide Area Network (WAN) through their contract with WSCC. As part of this initiative, the Councils will commit to a 30 year access agreement but will no longer make annual WAN payments for the sites connected.

6.6. The maximum revenue cost associated with this project is:

	£
Annual debt charges	121,830
Less:	
Current payments for WAN	-11,800
Annual rental for POP (tbc)	-5,000
Maximum net cost to the Councils	105,030

The cost will be split across the Councils as follows:

- Adur   £42,010
- Worthing £63,020

6.7.   In addition, the County Council are also considering whether to include additional sites into the scheme which would further reduce the revenue costs by £7,900.

7.   Legal Implications

7.1   s1 of the Localism Act 2011 empowers the Council to do anything an individual can do apart from that which is specifically prohibited by pre-existing legislation.

7.2   S1 Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997 confers power on the local authority to enter into a contract for the provision of making available assets or services for the purposes of, or in connection with, the discharge of the function by the local authority.

7.3   Under the Public Contract Regulations 2015 where a Public Authority is to enter into a contract for the supply of goods & services, and the value of those goods and services exceeds a financial limit of £181,302 any procurement exercise to contract for those goods and services must be conducted in accordance with the Regulations and any failure to do so may be declared as anti-competitive and in breach of the Regulations.

7.4   Legal advice on the project proposal is being obtained to ensure that the project does not offend the rules on state aid.

Background Papers

- Gigabit West Sussex - an ultrafast broadband model for the County (Oct 2016)
- Building Adur & Worthing's Digital Future - Beyond Gigabit (July 2018)

Officer Contact Details:-

Name: Paul Brewer
Role: Director for Digital & Resources
Telephone: 07881 323471
Email: paul.brewer@adur-worthing.gov.uk

Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. **Economic**

    1.1. There is growing evidence that gigabit networks can provide between 1-2% uplift in GDP through enhanced productivity

2. **Social**

    2.1. Social Value

    The free public WiFi scheme being developed would greatly impact on digital inclusion, as will the availability of ultrafast speeds in community premises and libraries.

    2.2. Equality Issues

    By connecting a wider range of buildings, including community libraries and community premises, and by taking steps to deliver a widely available public WiFi scheme, equality of access to the internet and digital services will be increased.

    2.3. Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

    The CCTV network will be upgraded to ultrafast as a result of this project.

    2.4. Human Rights Issues

    Matter considered and none identified

3. **Environmental**

    3.1. With much greater speeds, more widely available there will be greater opportunities for home working, use of video meetings, and in future intelligent transport solutions, better air quality monitoring, and remote inspections etc, helping reduce journeys.

4. **Governance**

    4.1. Matter considered and none identified

WSCC Gigabit Call-Off 2 - Adur & Worthing Councils

N

Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2019, Date: 18/03/2019

Adur & Worthing COUNCILS

west sussex county council

0   0.3   0.6   1.2 Kilometers

FarrPoint Go Further

AWC1_01_M01V2.0 - Site List A 18/03/19

Legend

- Call-Off Sites
- —— CityFibre WSCC Call-off Phase 1
- ▨ Secondary Shopping Areas - Wifi
- ▭ Adur & Worthing Councils Boundaries

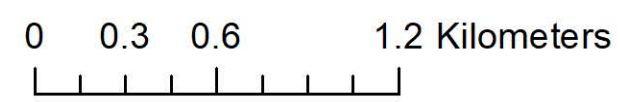**WSCC Gigabit Call-Off 2 - Adur & Worthing Councils**

Legend

• Call-Off Sites

— CityFibre WSCC Call-off Phase 1

▨ Secondary Shopping Areas - Wifi

☐ Adur & Worthing Councils Boundaries

Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2019, Date: 18/03/2019

West Sussex County Council

Adur & Worthing Councils

FarrPoint — Go Further

0 0.3 0.6 1.2 Kilometers

AWC1_01_M01V2.0 - Site List A 18/03/19