



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Joint Strategic Committee
10 July 2018
Agenda Item 11

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected: All

Building Adur & Worthing's Digital Future - Beyond Gigabit

Report by the Director for Digital & Resources

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This report sets out the steps our Councils are taking to build the digital infrastructure to power our future economies. It provides an update on Gigabit West Sussex, the first DCMS Local Full Fibre Fund scheme in the UK. It also provides a road map of further projects that are in development, which will capitalise on the momentum and opportunity brought by the fibre scheme. Joint Strategic Committee are asked to support the direction of travel as we work to make Adur and Worthing super-connected and digitally enabled places.
- 1.2. In showing support for development of these proposals, Joint Strategic Committee will provide potential funders and investors with assurance that digital infrastructure development and wider digital ambitions enjoy strong political leadership and direction.
- 1.3. On 31st May 2018, West Sussex County Council announced the award of a contract to Cityfibre, the UK's leading provider of wholesale full fibre infrastructure, for the construction of 9 future proof full fibre networks in Worthing/Lancing, Shoreham, Bognor

Regis, Burgess Hill, Chichester, Crawley, Haywards Heath, Horsham and Littlehampton. An update on progress is provided.

- 1.4. This report also outlines proposed future projects to extend the fibre footprint in our towns, and describes the added value projects being developed that will use fibre infrastructure and build on the emerging reputation our places have for digital.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Note the progress of Gigabit West Sussex and delivery timescales
- 2.2. Endorse the plan for a further bid to DCMS for funding for schools
- 2.3. Agree the principle of part-funding our CCTV sites through capital on a cost neutral basis, using the revenue budgets allocated for CCTV connectivity. This decision will strengthen the case for additional DCMS funding in a bid to be submitted in September 2018.
- 2.4. Endorse the development of proposals for small cell and public WiFi options in our towns, and the “barrier busting” regulatory and access work with West Sussex County Council.
- 2.5. Support the development of further digital proposals as outlined in the report in Section 3, helping our places become more digitally enabled.

3. Gigabit West Sussex - Delivering Fibre for the Future

- 3.1. Gigabit West Sussex is a project to connect public sector buildings using future proof fibre optic cabling, delivering 1Gb (1000Mb) minimum speeds. Initiated and driven by Adur & Worthing Councils, the project has the involvement of all district and borough councils in the county, and is now led by West Sussex County Council. Gigabit West Sussex was successful in attracting £4.6m of funding from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in October 2017, and is the first and flagship project in the £200m Local Full Fibre Fund.
- 3.2. West Sussex County Council have capital funded the total local authority contribution for the fibre network construction, and will receive payments from districts and boroughs through revenue contributions equivalent to the current Wide Area Network (WAN) charges, meaning

the scheme is cost neutral to our councils. DCMS have provided gap funding for the scheme.

- 3.3. In May 2018, after a major procurement exercise, a contract for the long term lease of dark fibre infrastructure to 152 buildings across 9 West Sussex towns was awarded to Cityfibre, the UK's leading wholesale fibre infrastructure provider.
- 3.4. Construction is due to start from August, connecting 152 sites in Worthing/Lancing, Shoreham, Bognor Regis, Burgess Hill, Chichester, Crawley, Haywards Heath, Horsham and Littlehampton.
- 3.5. Detailed design, wayleave and route approval work for Worthing, Lancing and Shoreham will commence in August through to October, with core network construction planned between October and February 2019. It is anticipated that an official launch of Gigabit West Sussex will be held in February 2019 in Worthing.
- 3.6. Benefitting from connection speeds of at least 1Gb (1000Mb), 24 public buildings will be connected in phase one in Worthing, 5 in Lancing, 1 in Southwick and 8 in Shoreham through the construction of brand new fibre networks to be owned and operated by Cityfibre. County, district and borough sites will enjoy long term lease of passive fibre connectivity, and will receive an additional 10 years free from Cityfibre beyond the 20 year paid term.
- 3.7. Buildings will experience a step change in connection speed at no additional cost. As an example, the Connaught Theatre in Worthing will move to a 1000Mb service from 10Mb, and Commerce Way will get a tenfold increase, up from 100Mb.
- 3.8. Libraries and children & family centres in the area will also move up from their current 10Mb or 100Mb services. Worthing Borough Council's planned digital hub at Colonnade House will receive the gigabit service, with businesses receiving the significant advantage of 1000Mb **upload speeds** when transferring data and video up to cloud services or out to clients. This is a key differentiator for full fibre, the very fast upload speeds.
- 3.9. Future expansion of full fibre connections across Worthing, Lancing and Shoreham is expected through several mechanisms. The Director for Digital & Resources is developing plans with West Sussex County

Council to create a subsequent wave of connections for schools, using the established framework contract, through a further bid to the DCMS Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) Fund in September 2018. This is a challenging model given individual school autonomy but progress is being made.

- 3.10. Further work is underway to assess the financial model for the inclusion of 31 CCTV cameras in a future LFFN funding bid. This may require Adur & Worthing Councils to commit to purchase a long term lease for CCTV connectivity as the local contribution, to be topped up by LFFN gap funding. This would be on a cost neutral basis, and involve capital investment, repaid through budgeted revenue funding, and would be the subject of a subsequent paper to Committee. However, it would assist the bidding process in September if Joint Strategic Committee were able to approve the principle of use of capital funds on the basis of an overall cost neutral scheme at this stage.
- 3.11. Finally, we are working to develop the marketing strategy for the [government gigabit voucher scheme](#), which provides businesses (including sole traders) with £3,000 to connect through registered suppliers. This work is being developed in partnership with West Sussex County Council and will involve working with businesses to raise awareness and help them create groups to aggregate vouchers together, targeting business parks, shared workspaces etc.
- 3.12. The key risks to the gigabit project are the required construction timescales (Oct 18-Feb 19) which are needed to fulfill the requirements of the DCMS grant funding. Secondly, there is a risk that the wider objectives of the Local Full Fibre Fund, to stimulate commercial investment in full fibre networks that will enable gigabit connections to businesses and homes, are not fully met due to a lack of uptake in business gigabit vouchers or subsequent commercial investment by suppliers.

4. Small Cells & Public WiFi

- 4.1. The future of mobile connectivity is highly dependent on the wide availability of optical fibre to allow for high speed, low latency (low transmission delay) mobile connections. 4G and future 5G requires

fibre-connected small cells (rather than big masts), particularly in urban areas, to provide continuous mobile connections to customers.

- 4.2. 5G, which promises wireless speeds of between 1Gb and 10Gb will need high numbers of small cells connected by fibre. This will be needed to support emerging technologies such as internet-connected sensors and devices which will be embedded into most things and where full coverage and low latency are essential. Whilst Worthing is a mid size town and potentially less attractive to operators, there is scope for councils to create good conditions for investment.
- 4.3. Local authorities can play an important (and potentially revenue generating) role in offering street furniture and buildings as sites for small cells. Many operators report frustration with local government when attempting to gain permissions and access sites for small cell deployment, and there are clear opportunities for Adur & Worthing and West Sussex County Council to provide a more enabling regulatory environment. We intend to lead the way with West Sussex County Council, to “barrier bust” and help make 5G a reality as quickly as possible for our areas.
- 4.4. Development work is already underway for a 4G/5G small cell project and/or public WiFi in Worthing and Shoreham town centres. Surveying and mapping work has already been undertaken for WiFi, and research is currently in progress looking at small cell business and operating models across the country. Discussions will be needed with mobile operators to understand their plans for our towns, and how our councils can assist.
- 4.5. The provision of free, easily accessed public WiFi is an important strategic step for our councils, and could provide many benefits to residents, businesses and visitors. Options for delivery will be developed (including with a linked small cell scheme) and brought forward to a subsequent Committee. This may include an option for capital investment in this essential future civic infrastructure, given its important role in ensuring the digital inclusion of the most vulnerable, as well as delivering promotional and marketing opportunities for our councils and partners.
- 4.6. Any public WiFi scheme will require privacy and trust to be at the heart of the access model. Preferred operating models are likely to be those that help the council and partners promote their own services, and

improve access by citizens to key visitor, community and resident information and services, rather than seeking to generate commercial advertising revenue.

5. The wider digital opportunity

- 5.1. We live in the digital age, where technology can and will deliver a wide range of benefits and new services to places. At Adur & Worthing, we will use the platform being created by the fibre initiative to create a range of opportunities, such as:
 - 5.1.1. Developing relationships with other gigabit service companies to ensure fibre connection to outlying areas and into office and residential blocks, encouraging both partnership and competition between providers.
 - 5.1.2. Introducing a design-based approach, and policy levers, to ensure that digital technologies are appropriately incorporated into public realm, capital schemes and regeneration projects with a view to improving the user experience (not just throwing technology gadgets at things).
 - 5.1.3. Driven from our economic strategy, develop opportunities at the Colonnade House Digital Hub to stimulate innovation in “smart” applications, from sensor networks (e.g. air quality), transport apps, digital high street, open data and digital visitor experience.
 - 5.1.4. Working with partners to develop new forms of SME support to help our businesses adopt gigabit services and new cloud technologies to drive productivity and growth.
 - 5.1.5. Strengthening digital inclusion work through our IT Junctions and libraries to ensure access for all as we become more and more reliant on internet based services for banking, energy, travel and shopping.

6. Engagement and Communication

- 6.1. A communications strategy is being developed with West Sussex County Council for Gigabit West Sussex, with particular attention to ensuring the civil works are clearly explained, and opportunities taken to convey the positive impact of the scheme.
- 6.2. IT Managers in districts and boroughs will be working with WSCC to expedite the switch to the new infrastructure as it becomes available.
- 6.3. Communications on Gigabit Vouchers to businesses will be carefully timed and orchestrated.

- 6.4. A Gigabit West Sussex launch event will be planned for February 2019 in Worthing.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. Gigabit West Sussex is a cost neutral scheme, using existing revenue funding for WAN connectivity, provided via WSCC.
- 7.2. Future projects under development in this report may have cost implications which will need to be fully considered by Joint Strategic Committee in due course.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1. Section 1 Localism Act 2011 empowers the Council to do anything an individual can do, apart from that which is specifically prohibited by pre-existing legislation.

Background Papers

- Gigabit West Sussex - an ultrafast broadband model for the County, Joint Strategic Committee, 11th October 2016.

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Sustainability & Risk Assessment

- The development of digital infrastructure will help drive down business journeys, through an increase in video conferencing and ability to work from home.
- Improved digital infrastructure promises to enable intelligent transport options and traffic management, and increase the use of public transport through improved information and travel planning.

1. Economic

- 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 availability of ultrafast speeds in children's centres and libraries.

2.2 Equality Issues

- Matter considered and none identified

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

- The framework will allow CCTV to be upgraded when the current contract ends in 2022, providing faster more reliable CCTV facilities.

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Matter considered and none identified

3. Environmental

- The construction work will have an impact on the environment and West Sussex County Council will be responsible for ensuring adherence to the contract terms in relation to materials and processes used.