

**PAPER NO. 2**

**REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE MEETING OF 22<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2013**

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**Meeting:** Executive  
**Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2013  
**Subject:** Broadband Collaboration Agreement  
**Report of:** Anna Graves - Chief Executive Officer  
**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor M. Rook – Business Growth Portfolio Holder and  
Grahame Spendlove-Mason – Asset Management and Finance  
Portfolio Holder  
**Status:** Decision

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1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update members on the current position regarding the delivery of improved broadband infrastructure within Leicester and Leicestershire.

2 Recommendations:

- 2.1 That members note the current position regarding the Leicestershire County Council Super Fast Broadband (SFBB) project (“the Project”).
- 2.2 That the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Head of Legal Services and Portfolio Holder be authorised to negotiate and enter into a Collaboration Agreement for the delivery of the Project.

3 Summary of Reasons for the Recommendations

As set out in paragraph 5.

4 Impact on Communities

- 4.1 The improvement to the broadband service will have a significant impact on the ability of households and businesses in rural areas to take advantage of the opportunities offered by Super Fast Broadband (SFBB).

5 Key Facts

- 5.1 On 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012 Council resolved to commit partnership funding of up to £530,000 to deliver improved broadband connectivity across the Harborough District Council area. Discussions have been ongoing with all local authorities regarding a Collaboration Agreement for the provision of the Project. To date agreement has not been reached on the detail of the agreement. However, to ensure that there is no delay in the timetable for the

delivery of the project, it is proposed that Leicestershire County Council procure the infrastructure project without the financial contributions from the district authorities. The successful supplier will provide a technical solution based on the funding from LCC/BDUK and ERDF already in place.

5.2 A 31 week procurement schedule started at the end of January 2013 and it is anticipated that a contract will be awarded by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013.

5.3 The contract will be on a “change control” basis, which will enable other authorities to sign up to the contract with the successful supplier, when the Collaboration Agreement is in place and when there is clarity as to what each authority’s financial contribution can deliver.

## 6 Legal Issues

6.1 As set out in the body of this report.

## 7 Resource Issues

7.1 Approval was given in December 2012 by Council to fund and apply £530,000 as a contribution from Harborough District Council to a partnership project, being led by Leicestershire County Council, to improve broadband connectivity across the Harborough District Council area.

## 8 Equality Impact Assessment Implications/Outcomes

8.1 There are no direct equality issues arising from this report. Public sector investment will help reduce the Digital Divide and ensure that all residents and businesses within the District of Harborough can experience the benefits of SFBB.

## 9 Impact on the Organisation

9.1 The deployment of SFBB will support the Council’s service transformation programme.

## 10 Community Safety Implications

10.1 None in the context of this report

## 11. Carbon Management Implications

11.1 There are no climate change issues arising from this report. The deployment of SFBB across the District will help reduce the need for residents to travel to access services and allow businesses to be conveniently located nearer to employees’ residences.

## 12. Risk Management Implications

12.1 No direct risks have been identified. The project is supported by Leicestershire County Council, who is the major financial contributor. The

County Council is planning to use the Government's national procurement Framework which mitigates a number of potential key risks.

13 Consultation

13.1 In 2012 Leicestershire County Council undertook a broadband survey. Over 4,600 responses were received, including 650 from businesses. The results of the consultation helped to create a picture of where there is poor connectivity and demand for super-fast broadband. The full report is available at [www.leics.gov.uk/broadband](http://www.leics.gov.uk/broadband).

14 Options Considered

14.1 Take no action – Not considered appropriate given the levels of non and poor availability across the District.

15 Background Papers

15.1 N/A

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**Previous report(s): Council, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012, Broadband Leicestershire Investment**

**Information Issued Under Sensitive Issue Procedure: Y/N**

**Ward Members Notified: Y/N**

**Appendices:** *list any appendices here including title and filename in brackets (e.g. Performance Data 2010 (perfdata.doc)).*

**A.**

**B.**

**C.**

**D.**