

**SUPER CONNECTED CITIES ROUND TWO FUNDING**

**To:** Cabinet

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> September 2012

**From:** Alex Plant Executive Director Economy, Transport and Environment.

**Electoral division(s):** All Divisions within Cambridge City and some South Cambridgeshire Divisions, yet to be confirmed.

**Forward Plan ref:** Not applicable *Key decision:* No

**Purpose:** To seek agreement for a joint bid to the Government's Urban Broadband Fund for Super Connected Cities for the Cambridge area.

**Recommendation:** Cabinet is recommended to:

- a) Endorse the partnership approach with Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council to submit a joint Super Connected Cities funding and project delivery proposal to Broadband UK (BDUK).
- b) Delegate authority to set up governance and project management arrangements as part of the Connecting Cambridgeshire programme to the Executive Director: Economy, Transport and Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning.
- c) Delegate to the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning in consultation with the Executive Director: Economy, Transport and Environment the authority to sign the Super Connected Cities Plan for submission to Broadband UK (BDUK) on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council.

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## 1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The Connecting Cambridgeshire project to rollout Superfast Broadband is a joint initiative between Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council which has widespread support from Cambridgeshire Districts Councils, local businesses, universities and other local public sector organisations. The government has allocated £6.75m funding via the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) sponsored Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) to complement up to £20m funding from Cambridgeshire County Council and up to £3.1m from Peterborough City Council.

1.2 The target of the Superfast Broadband initiative is:

*To influence and, where permitted, intervene in the market to provide by 2015:*

- *access for at least 90% of all premises to Superfast Broadband,*
- *better broadband connectivity of up to 2Mbps to the remaining premises .*

1.3 The objectives of the project are to

### ***Support economic growth in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by***

- Helping to make Cambridgeshire an attractive location for new businesses by consolidating, enhancing and spreading the reputation of Cambridge and the surrounding area for technology innovation and enterprise by ensuring a “Connected Cambridgeshire” with 21st Century digital infrastructure services.
- Ensuring that Cambridgeshire businesses have access to superfast broadband services to help them compete and succeed in a globally competitive economy.
- Facilitating remote and home working through improved broadband coverage across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with consequent reduction in traffic congestion and other inhibitors to growth.
- Providing targeted support to businesses to help them exploit the potential of superfast broadband.

### ***Support the health and well being of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough residents by:***

- Enabling streamlined and innovative public service delivery, including support for an ageing population, via telehealth and other initiatives
- Helping to improve the life chances of all residents by maximising digital inclusion and ensuring that all Cambridgeshire communities, including the most deprived, have access to digital services
- Improving access to on-line and home based training, education and life-long learning opportunities

- 1.4 In the 2011 Autumn Statement the Chancellor set out details of a new Urban Broadband Fund (UBF) to create up to ten super-connected cities across the UK with ultrafast broadband (80-100Mbps) connectivity. In June 2012 a further wave two urban broadband fund was announced to enable at least ten smaller cities to become “super-connected”.
- 1.5 This is an additional competition for up to 27 cities to bid for a total of £50m from DCMS with the expectation that around 10 are likely to be successful in a bid. The key date for the submission of a funding bid is 17 September. The winners will be announced in the Autumn Statement 2012.
- 1.6 ‘Ultrafast’ refers to networks capable of delivering minimum download speeds to the user as close to 80-100Mbps as is currently possible or higher. Proposals incorporating ubiquitous high speed wireless are also being considered.

Eligibility is for cities with Royal Charters and more than 45,000 core urban dwellings: Aberdeen Brighton & Hove Cambridge Chelmsford Coventry Derby Dundee Exeter Gloucester Kingston upon Hull Leicester Londonderry/Derry Newport Norwich Oxford Perth Peterborough Plymouth Portsmouth Preston Salford Southampton Stoke-on-Trent Sunderland Swansea Wolverhampton York

## **2. MAIN ISSUES**

- 2.1 The remit and aspirations for the Super Connected Cities programme are consistent with and complementary to the Connecting Cambridgeshire Superfast Broadband project as set out above (1.3).
- 2.2 Together the urban ultrafast and rural superfast broadband projects will enhance and spread the impact of technology, innovation and enterprise beyond the City of Cambridge and the surrounding area. The Super Connected Cities funding opportunity offers wider benefits to all Cambridgeshire residents and businesses via:
- Increased local employment
  - Local supply chain opportunities
- 2.3 Under the terms of the bidding rules Cambridge City Council has been invited to submit a proposal. However as the logical geographical area and remit covers three local authorities: Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council it is proposed that a single joint bid is made to the Urban Broadband Fund Super Connected Cities Wave Two competition.
- 2.4 The funding rules state that the area under consideration must be a contiguous urban area. Given the local geography of Cambridge, which has major business areas ringing the city, an extended urban footprint is proposed (as per map - Appendix A).
- 2.5 Under the terms of the funding competition Peterborough City Council is also eligible to bid but must do so independently, as a joint Cambridge/Peterborough Cities will not be allowed.

- 2.6 Under the rules of the funding competition the UBF project must be completed by the end of 2014. This means that in the event of a successful outcome to the funding proposal a delivery project must be established swiftly, to include governance and project management arrangements.
- 2.7 Positive and productive working relationships have already been established as part of the Connecting Cambridgeshire project, which has brought together representatives from Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire District Councils, Peterborough and Cambridge City Councils, business, health and academic sectors into an advisory “Connecting Cambridgeshire Broadband Delivery” group
- 2.8 In addition the Connecting Cambridgeshire demand registration programme has attracted wide-spread public support with over 70 active “broadband champions” across the County and around 15,000 registrations so far for better broadband.
- 2.9 In order to capitalise on the current working arrangements, reduce potential duplication and to minimise any public confusion it is proposed the UBF project arrangements be set up within the overarching Connecting Cambridgeshire programme, with separate governance arrangements to be established as needed.
- 2.10 As part of the UBF bidding process a “Super Connected Cities Plan” (SCCP) which outlines the details of the proposal and how it will be achieved must be created and signed by the submitting Local Authority. Given the proposed partnership approach it is recommended that all three lead member/portfolio holders from Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council are signatories to the plan.

### **3. ALIGNMENT WITH PRIORITIES AND WAYS OF WORKING**

#### **3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all**

The report above sets out the implications for this priority in 1.3 above

#### **3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives**

The report above sets out the implications for this priority in 1.3 above

#### **3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people**

The report above sets out the implications for this priority in 1.3 above

#### **3.4 Ways of Working**

The report above sets out the implications for investing in growth in 1.3 and 2.2 above

#### **4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Resource and Performance Implications**

The report above sets out details of the resources implications in 1.5 above. Funding is dependent on a successful application to the Urban Broadband Fund.

##### **4.1 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications**

No direct implications

##### **4.2 Equality and Diversity Implications**

No direct implications

##### **Engagement and Consultation**

##### **4.3 Public Health Implications**

No direct implications

<b>Source Documents</b>	<b>Location</b>
BDUK Urban Broadband Fund overview and guidance. DCMS website.	<a href="http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/telecommunications_and_online/8830.aspx">http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/telecommunications_and_online/8830.aspx</a>

