

TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

19 NOVEMBER 2019

PART I

Report Title	Connecting Devon and Somerset contribution
Purpose of Report	To decide if Teignbridge District Council should continue to commit £250,000 to the Connecting Devon and Somerset rural broadband rollout programme, following the cancellation of the original contract and proposal to go back out to tender.
Recommendation	The Committee RESOLVES that subject to satisfactory assurances being received from Connecting Devon & Somerset about this council's investment in rural broadband achieving enhanced provision and support in this district, that Teignbridge continues to invest the currently identified £250,000. That the matter is delegated to the Managing Director, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to conclude an agreement.
Financial Implications	<p>£250,000 is currently allocated to Broadband provision in the capital programme. This funding could be used for the existing scheme or reallocated to an alternative scheme.</p> <p>Financial implications are detailed in 2.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny report.</p> <p>Martin Flitcroft, Chief Finance Officer Tel: 01626 215246 Email: martin.flitcroft@teignbridge.gov.uk</p>
Legal Implications	<p>There are no legal implications.</p> <p>Paul Woodhead, Legal Services Team Leader and Deputy Monitoring Officer Tel: 01626 215 Email: paul.woodhead@teignbridge.gov.uk</p>
Risk Assessment	<p>Risk assessment consideration is set out in 2.3 of the Overview and Scrutiny report.</p> <p>If the Council decides not to fund the programme, the risk is that some rural areas of Teignbridge will not be covered in the Phase 2 rollout programme that may otherwise have been included.</p> <p>Neil Blaney, Economy Manager Tel: 01626 215233 Email: neil.blaney@teignbridge.gov.uk</p>

Environmental/ Climate Change Implications	Environmental and Climate Change implications are detailed in 2.4 of the Overview and Scrutiny report and the accompanying Business Impact Assessment. Overall the impact of the proposal is not significant. David Eaton, Environmental Protection Manager Tel: 01626 215064 Email: david.eaton@teignbridge.gov.uk
Report Author	Neil Blaney, Economy Manager Tel: 01626 215233 Email: neil.blaney@teignbridge.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Nina Jeffries, Portfolio Holder for Business, Economy and Tourism
Appendices / Background Papers	Appendix 1 – Overview and Scrutiny Committee report and Minutes 15.10.2019 (Agenda item 10) http://democracy.teignbridge.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=1495 Appendix 2 – Executive Committee report 31.10.19 (agenda item 11) http://democracy.teignbridge.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=1479 Appendix 3 – Confirmation letter from DCC (awaited)

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On 15th October 2019 a report was presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee, recommending that the Council supports the ongoing financial commitment to the Connecting Devon and Somerset Programme. That report is included as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee did not support the recommendation as set out.
- 1.3 Concern was expressed that there was no assurance that the Council's contribution would be used entirely for improving broadband speeds and coverage for Teignbridge residents, when Teignbridge was the only Devon Authority that had previously agreed to financially commit to the CDS project. The minutes of the Committee is included as Appendix 2 to this report.
- 1.4 On 31st October 2019 the Executive considered the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the informal reassurances given by the Connecting Devon and Somerset Programme Director that the Council's contribution would be wholly spent within Teignbridge.

- 1.5 The Executive resolved to make the recommendation as set out at the beginning of this report, namely 'that subject to satisfactory assurances being received from Connecting Devon & Somerset about this council's investment in rural broadband achieving enhanced provision and support in this district, that Teignbridge continues to invest the currently identified £250,000. That the matter is delegated to the Managing Director, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to conclude an agreement.'
- 1.6 A formal letter has been requested to this effect and will be appended to the report once received.