

Connecting Somerset and Devon Broadband

Lead Officer: Emily McGuinness, Scrutiny Manager
Contact Details: emily.mcguinness@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462566

Purpose of the Report

The report attached at Appendix A outlines the review process undertaken by the Broadband Task and Finish Group and their subsequent recommendations.

Action Required

Scrutiny Committee is asked to comment on the report and endorse the following recommendations (as contained in the report on page 13) to the Executive:

Recommendations

1. That clarification is sought, and reported to members, at the earliest opportunity as to whether the SSDC/EDDC element of the potential £22.75 million SEP funding can be redirected to an alternative provider outside of the Connecting Devon and Somerset Programme.
 2. That clarification is sought, and reported to members on the original objectives of the BDUK project...was it to provide improved access for rural residents to Superfast Broadband, in recognition of the fact that such access is now seen as essential in modern domestic and business life, or was it also to support cheaper provision to SME's in more urban areas? Members would also like to have the position on state aid to business clarified in relation to this point.
 3. That whatever decisions are taken corporately to address providing Superfast Broadband to 'the final 10%', there is a commitment to openness, transparency and accountability from all those involved and there will be no further use of Non-disclosure Agreements or similar.
-