

Report of Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group - Broadband

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Purpose of the Report

To present District Executive with the findings of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group conducted jointly with East Devon District Council looking into the Connecting Devon and Somerset Broadband project.

Forward Plan

This report appeared/ with an anticipated Committee date of November 2014.

Public Interest

Providing improved rural broadband is an issue that is important to the communities of both South Somerset and East Devon. This report outlines a review of the Connecting Devon and Somerset Broadband project conducted by Scrutiny Councillors from both East Devon District Council and South Somerset District Councils.

Recommendations

District Executive are recommended to endorse the report of the Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group as attached to this report and consider the following recommendations as contained in that report:

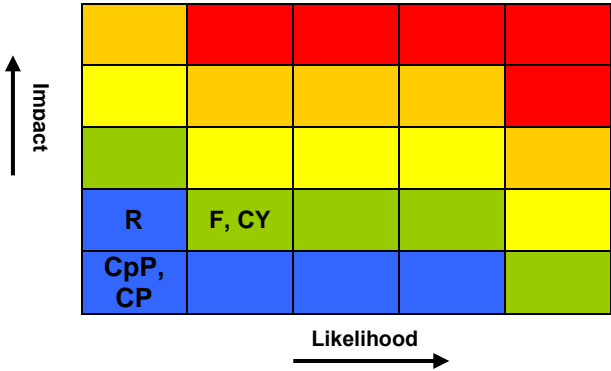
1. That clarification is sought from relevant sources, including Connecting Devon and Somerset, and reported to members, at the earliest opportunity as to whether the SSDC/EDDC element of the potential £22.75 million SEP funding can be redirected to an alternative provider outside of the Connecting Devon and Somerset Programme.
2. That clarification is sought from relevant sources including Connecting Devon and Somerset, 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.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Risk Matrix

This matrix only identifies the risk associated with taking the decision as set out in the report as the recommendation(s). Should there be any proposal to amend the recommendation(s) by either members or officers at the meeting then the impact on the matrix and the risks it identifies must be considered prior to the vote on the recommendation(s) taking place.



Key

Categories	Colours (for further detail please refer to Risk management strategy)
R = Reputation	Red = High impact and high probability
CpP = Corporate Plan Priorities	Orange = Major impact and major probability
CP = Community Priorities	Yellow = Moderate impact and moderate probability
CY = Capacity	Green = Minor impact and minor probability
F = Financial	Blue = Insignificant impact and insignificant probability