

Project Documentation - Initial Project Proposal Document

Project: Expanding the Gigabit project to achieve a 'lit up' city

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1. Purpose of Document

The purpose of this document is to justify the undertaking of the project based on the estimated cost of delivery and the anticipated benefits to be gained. The proposal outlined in this document will be used as part of the process for prioritising future projects.

2. Project Description

Expansion of the Gigabit project, connecting an additional 50 sites within Chichester City and unlocking the ability for the provider City Fibre to connect every house and business within the city. Further detail is to be worked up through a joint business case with WSCC.

In scope:

All houses and businesses with Chichester City

Out of scope:

Areas outside of Chichester City at this stage

3. Background

In September 2017 Cabinet approved that the council be part of the County wide Gigabit project. The project was successful in receiving a significant grant from the DCMS Local Full Fibre Network fund and in early 2018 a contract worth £5.7m was awarded to City Fibre to connect over 300 public sector sites across the county, in Chichester district the sites were in Chichester City and Midhurst, the CDC sites were East Pallant House, Careline, the depot and the Novium (there are several more County and health sites). Whilst initially the project benefits will create superfast gigabit (1,000 mbps) connections to these sites, the secondary benefits will be to some local businesses. These secondary benefits will be that businesses that are within 75 metres of the fibre network and 250 metres of the connected sites will be able to connect to the superfast network and there is currently a scheme being rolled out by government that allocates vouchers to SMEs to assist with the costs of connecting for up to £3,000. The scope of the original project didn't include businesses outside of the range described above or any houses. There was however the ability to add additional public sector sites at a cost, the amount of £30k per site was mentioned.

There is now discussion about a further stage to the project which would mean if that if a further 50 sites could be connected in Chichester at a cost of £800k, City Fibre could then be in a position to connect all homes and businesses within the whole city which would in effect what is known as a 'lit up' city. The additional sites connected could be buildings (public sector) or other items that could include CCTV cameras. It is proposed that CDC work on a joint business case with WSCC to work up the detail and potential benefits.

4. Outcomes to be Achieved

Increased GVA through better connectivity, the ability to attract a wider range of sectors / businesses when delivering inward investment.

5. Timescales

Timescales to be developed through detailed business plan.

6. Project Costs and Resources

	Costs (£)	Source
One-Off	A contribution towards an estimated total up front cost of £800k	CDC Capital / partners
Revenue	TBC	
Savings	No savings but potential increase to GVA and better potential inward investment prospects	
Services to be involved in the project delivery	ICT, Economic Development and Estates	

7. Benefits vs. Cost

Further work is required to establish a full business case developing contribution required from stakeholders and potential benefits.

8. Identify Risks

There is a risk of falling behind in terms of digital connectivity, detailed project risks will be specified when the business case is developed. There is a risk of lack of partner investment, again to be established.