

# Chichester District Council

THE CABINET

5 September 2017

## Gigabit West Sussex for Districts and Boroughs

### 1. Contacts

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### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Chichester District Council commits in principle to the sites listed in paragraph 6.1 to a 20 year lease of new dark fibre infrastructure as part of a contract between West Sussex County Council and the selected supplier, subject to central government gap funding, lease terms and on a cost neutral basis.
- 2.2 That the Cabinet delegates to the Head of Commercial Services consideration of which option to accept in relation to the CCTV contract award on the basis that whatever option is selected will also be cost neutral.
- 2.3 The Council informs the Gigabit West Sussex project team of sites, including parish councils, outside the Capita WAN which could be included in the procurement.

### 3. Background

- 3.1 West Sussex County Council is planning a step change in wide area network (WAN) site connectivity in Worthing, Shoreham, Chichester, Bognor Regis, Horsham, Haywards Heath, Burgess Hill and Crawley as part of the Gigabit West Sussex programme. A WAN comprises data lines in the ground connecting local authority sites in West Sussex e.g. East Pallant House to Careline, Depot and Novium. CDC pays WSCC for this service. It is currently provided by WSCC via their Capita Contract. A procurement of new gigabit capable dark fibre<sup>1</sup> networks, connecting local authority sites in these locations, will commence in early October. District and borough councils have been invited to join, taking advantage of Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Programme funding, which has been applied for.

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<sup>1</sup> Dark Fibre is essentially fibre infrastructure that is not in use. When fibre optic cables are laid, many companies will, in order to future-proof their networks, overestimate the amount of infrastructure required. This means that many fibre networks have extra capacity that is not being used and Dark Fibre networks have developed to take advantage of this extra capacity.

- 3.2 The procurement will deliver new end-to-end dark fibre networks through a 20 year lease agreement with a single supplier. The selected towns provide the required site density for viable builds, following a detailed modelling exercise of all sites across the county by specialist consultants.
- 3.3 In the scheme, sites will be connected at 1000mb (gigabit) speeds, compared to our current speed of 10mb. West Sussex County Council is prepared to make the required initial capital investment on behalf of all councils, charging partners annually without any increases in costs, as a result of, and subject to, LFFN gap funding.

#### *Capita WAN*

- 3.4 Dark or passive fibre relates to the infrastructure in the ground, not active network services, which will continue to be provided by Capita. Capita will switch services to the new fibre networks as they become available, with the cost of change factored in to the bid for central government funding.
- 3.5 In the future, any new WAN provider will be required to use the leased fibre infrastructure, and councils will have the ability to make their own arrangements for active services at contract renewal points should they wish to. There will also continue to be the existing flexibility to add or remove sites from the dark fibre lease agreement.

#### *CCTV*

- 3.6 There is also an opportunity to ensure our CCTV systems also benefit from gigabit fibre from 2019. A contract is currently being let for CCTV network services. This includes an option which allows a switch to the new fibre network in Sept 2019. The Council is encouraged to take this option to secure central funding for these sites (deadline 1st October 2017), but more importantly to set up these CCTV locations for a future which promises ultrafast public wifi and other smart digital services in our town and city centres. Officers have not completed their assessment of the options and delegation is requested as part of this report to accept the most advantageous option.

### **4. Outcomes to be achieved**

- 4.1 To secure improved connectivity for Council sites at no additional cost by October 2019.

### **5. Proposal**

- 5.1 To proceed with the procurement of an end to end dark fibre network for: Community Care Line; East Pallant House; The Novium and Westhampnett Depot, subject to securing £4.66m of funding from the DCMS, which will ensure no increase in charges to the District Council for its connectivity.
- 5.2 Those other public services, including parish councils are informed of and given the opportunity to join the programme.

## **6. Alternatives that have been considered**

- 6.1 Not to proceed with the procurement of an end to end fibre network. The Councils will lose the anticipated £4.66m funding from DCMS and will not be able to avail of an opportunity to improve existing connectivity between Council owned buildings. Whilst the current band width is sufficient for the Councils current needs the improved connectivity proposed will future proof the functionality. It will also enable improved service to others who choose to join the programme on a cost basis. This is not therefore the recommended option.

## **7. Resource and legal implications**

### *DCMS Funding*

- 7.1 In late July 2017, the DCMS wrote to all council Chief Executives and Leaders to promote their Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Programme which aims to support different approaches to stimulating investment in full fibre networks.
- 7.2 The Gigabit West Sussex project has been in development for some time, and following central government's announcements to support full fibre networks as the fastest and most reliable broadband, the Gigabit West Sussex project has engaged with the LFFN Programme. The project seeks £4.66m gap funding to enable the dark fibre procurement to take place. West Sussex County Council is working closely with DCMS to ensure we are in a position to satisfy funding requirements.

### *Local Project Funding*

- 7.3 The project work is funded by the West Sussex Chief Executive's Forum through the business rate pool, along with additional resources provided by the County Council and Adur & Worthing Councils. Specialist consultants are supporting the finalisation of the procurement specification and approach, having undertaken detailed business case development with the local team.
- 7.4 The project is therefore cost neutral to the District Council in terms of initial set up and ongoing revenue costs on the basis of a 20 year commitment.
- 7.5 There are no known IT or Property implications flowing from this project.
- 7.6 Whilst there are no direct staffing implications for CDC we may wish to promote the gigabit vouchers to businesses.

## **8. Consultation**

- 8.1 The project has been developed via the West Sussex Chief Executive's Forum and progressed via a Project Group on which the Council's Head of Business Improvement Services represents the Council.

## **9. Community impact and corporate risks**

- 9.1 Outside of this current phase of the Gigabit West Sussex project, there are further opportunities to work with the DCMS Local Full Fibre Networks Programme including

considering opportunities to connect schools and other public sector sites e.g. parish councils. There may be scope for DCMS funding if Parishes engage quickly.

- 9.2 West Sussex County Council will be submitting an “Expression of Interest” to the Challenge Fund to outline these additional opportunities to potentially extend the reach of the current project.
- 9.3 The contract established with the supplier will allow for all public sector bodies to access the scheme, spreading the benefits of ultrafast to hospitals, schools, GPs and others over time. Brighton & Hove City Council will also be named in the contract.
- 9.4 Officers will ensure via the terms of the lease that appropriate safeguards are in place to secure the standard of service, cost neutrality and exit strategy should the project not deliver the outcomes set out in this report.

## 10. Other Implications

<b>Are there any implications for the following?</b>		
	Yes	No
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder:</b> The proposals in relation to CCTV will improve connectivity and reliability of this service in terms of its use to discourage and detect crime.	X	
<b>Climate Change:</b> Increased use of internet based services reduces travel and emissions associated therewith	X	
<b>Human Rights and Equality Impact:</b>		X
<b>Safeguarding and Early Help:</b>		X
<b>Other (Please specify):</b> eg Biodiversity		X

## 11. Appendices

12.1 Site list

## 12. Background Papers

13.1 None