

Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

27.01.20

DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY REPORT & ACTION PLAN

To consider and comment on the following issues:

The proposed future projects within the Action Plan.

Reasons:

Digital connectivity and efficient access to the internet is commonly considered the 4th utility in modern life. It is essential for delivering economic growth, wealth creation, increased productivity and GVA for Carmarthenshire and the Country.

This paper has been produced with the intention of achieving 2 things:

1. Summarising the current situation across Carmarthenshire in terms of Digital Connectivity.
2. To seek approval for the proposed future projects within the action Plan. These projects have the potential to improve digital connectivity and facilitate further digital infrastructure deployment across the County.

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: **NO**

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Directorate: Chief Executives

Name of Head of Service: Noelwyn Daniel

Report Author: Gareth Jones

Designations:

Head of ICT and Corporate Policy

Digital Business Transformation Manager

01267 246270

Email Address:
NDaniel@sirgar.gov.uk

01267 246350

Email Address:
garethjones@sirgar.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
27.01.20

Digital Connectivity Report & Action Plan

Digital connectivity and efficient access to the internet is commonly considered the 4th utility in modern life. It is essential for delivering economic growth, wealth creation, increased productivity and GVA for the county and the country.

Unfortunately, delivering high speed broadband and mobile connectivity in rural locations has challenges, especially in a commercially driven market, even with Government subsidies and supporting policies. This is widely acknowledged by all significant stakeholders including Welsh and UK Government. This problem clearly effects Carmarthenshire.

Over the past 12 months there has been a significant amount of work and significant progress made in identifying coverage problems across Carmarthenshire, evaluating and understanding the current situation, understanding the telecommunications market and assessing the potential interventions which we as a local Authority should pursue to improve digital connectivity across our County both now and for the future.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Noelwyn Daniel

Head of ICT and Corporate Policy

| | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities NONE | Legal YES | Finance NONE | ICT YES | Risk Management Issues NONE | Staffing Implications NONE | Physical Assets YES |
|--|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|

2. Legal

Legal advice will be required during the implementation of this project as we engage with external contractors, local businesses and the local community.

4. ICT

ICT Services will facilitate dialogue with external providers and contractors to progress all approved projects.

7. Staffing Implications

Potential impact on our physical assets that could be used to facilitate aspects of this projects

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Noelwyn Daniel

Head of ICT and Corporate Policy

1. Local Member(s) NA

2. Community / Town Council NA

3. Relevant Partners NA

4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations NA

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

| Title of Document | File Ref No. | Locations that the papers are available for public inspection |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Moving Rural Carmarthenshire Forward | | https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/strategies-and-plans/moving-rural-carmarthenshire-forward/ |