

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020**

**DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT,  
SWANSEA BAY CITY DEAL**

**Executive Board Recommendations:**

- 1) that the proposed Business Case and subsequent investment in Digital Infrastructure across the Swansea Bay City Region be approved;
- 2) that the project SRO (Senior Responsible Owner) be granted delegated powers to make minor amendments to the business case as necessary to obtain approval at local, regional, and national governance.

**Reasons:** The Digital Infrastructure Project of the Swansea Bay City Deal is an investment in the Digital Connectivity and associated Telecommunications Infrastructure of the region. This includes but is not limited to full fibre fixed connectivity and associated infrastructure, 4G, 5G and Internet of Things wireless networks. It is in essence the deployment of enabling technology that will allow quality digital services to be delivered and accessed over fixed line networks or wireless networks. The Project will deliver the essential underlying Infrastructure required to support and underpin the regions broader Digital Strategy. It will help to ensure that the region is equipped with future-proofed Digital Infrastructure that will provide the transformative foundations for City Deal interventions and wider regional growth. The Project will also help to ensure social inclusion and cohesion in a post Covid19 world.

Carmarthenshire County Council is the designated lead Authority for the Digital Infrastructure Project with responsibility for its delivery across the region. City Deal governance requires authorisation of this Business Case by each of the 4 regional Local Authorities.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted NA

Exec. Board Decision Required YES 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Council Decision Required YES 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:** - Cllr Emlyn Dole, Leader and Executive Board Member for Economic Development.

Directorate: Chief Executives

Name of Head of Service:  
Jason Jones

Report Author: Gareth Jones

Designations:

Head of Regeneration

Digital Infrastructure  
Project Manager

Tel No: 01267 242336

Email addresses:

[JaJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:JaJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

Tel No: 07854 304 740

Email addresses:

[garethjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:garethjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## COUNTY COUNCIL

### 11th November 2020

#### DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT, SWANSEA BAY CITY DEAL

##### 1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

The Digital Infrastructure Project of the Swansea Bay City Deal is an investment in the Digital Connectivity and associated Telecommunications Infrastructure of the region. This includes but is not limited to full fibre fixed connectivity and associated infrastructure, 4G, 5G and Internet of Things wireless networks. It is in essence the deployment of enabling technology that will allow quality digital services to be delivered and accessed over fixed line networks or wireless networks.

The Project will deliver the essential underlying Infrastructure required to support and underpin the regions broader Digital Strategy. It will help to ensure that the region is equipped with future-proofed Digital Infrastructure that will provide the transformative foundations for City Deal interventions and wider regional growth. The Project will also help to ensure social inclusion and cohesion in a post Covid19 world.

This ultra-fast ultra-reliable connectivity will help to ensure that the region capitalises on opportunities to accelerate economic growth and establish itself as a centre of excellence in the key sectors of; energy, life science and well-being and smart manufacturing. Future proofed Digital Infrastructure will help will create a paradigm shift in the design, development, and application of technology within these key sectors across the region.

**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:** Jason Jones, Head of Regeneration

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>

## **2. Legal**

Legal advice will be required during the implementation of certain workstreams within this project as we move to individual procurements. This will be dealt with on an ad hoc basis with relevant advice and guidance sort as and when necessary. Specialist external legal advice will be required on specific matters relating to the Telecommunications industry and state aid.

## **3. Finance**

The financial implications associated with the digital infrastructure project will be managed through the projects risk register with associated mitigating actions.

The project is funded through £25m City Deal Funding, £13.5 public sector funding and £16.5 Private sector sending. City deal funding will be release on the successful approval of the project business case by UK and WG Government. Public sector investment will be generated through wider public sector infrastructure funding. Private sector inward investment will be generated by telecom and internet providers investing in and building off the Digital Infrastructure deployed as part of this Project.

The procedures around the management of City Deal funding are detailed within the Joint Committee Agreement.

## **4. ICT**

Some of the workstreams within the proposed Business Case may have minimal ICT resource implications for implementation & maintenance. Discussions are ongoing with the Head of ICT and will continue throughout the lifetime of the project to ensure collaboration and alignment.

The Project will complement existing ICT systems.

The Project complies with, supports, and underpins ITSG/IEG criteria & the ICT Strategy.

## **5. Risk Management Issues**

All risks associated with undertaking the proposed actions and the risks associated with failing to undertake the proposed action have been identified and mitigated where possible within the Business Case and supporting Risk register. This has been done in line with City Deal governance and risk management procedures and will continue to be managed throughout the lifetime of the Project.

## **6. Physical Assets**

Physical assets belonging to Carmarthenshire County Council will be enhanced by this Project through the provision of improved Digital connectivity.

## **7. Staffing Implications**

The Business Case includes the recruitment of a small team of officers to deliver the Project and all associated workstreams. This team will be hosted by Carmarthenshire on behalf of the region and funded entirely by the City Deal budget for this project.

All recommendations in relation to staffing matters comply with statutory employment legislation and the Authority's employment policies.

## CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed:

Jason Jones, Head of Regeneration

**1. Scrutiny Committee** Not applicable

**2. Local Member(s)** Not applicable

**3. Community / Town Council** Not applicable

**4. Relevant Partners**

All Relevant regional partners and stakeholders have been and continue to be consulted with in relation to this Project. A regional Digital Infrastructure Project Board has been established with representation from all City Deal partners being sort. Other relevant partners and stakeholders have also been invited.

**5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** Not applicable

**EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO  
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED**

YES

Supportive of the Project and it's proposed investment in the Digital Infrastructure and connectivity of the region.

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information**

**List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

See page 20 – 24 of the Digital Infrastructure Project Business Case for a comprehensive list of local, regional, and national strategies and papers used in the preparation of this report.