

## Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

7 May 2014

### Report on Progress - CSW BDUK Project

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 In early 2011 the Government announced that £530m was to be made available for the provision of superfast broadband (min 24Mbps) to 90% of properties in the UK and that a minimum speed of 2Mbps should be available to 100% of properties.
- 1.2 Coventry City Council, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council (the sub-region) are working in partnership as neighbouring authorities to deliver a significant improvement to our broadband infrastructure.
- 1.3 The Government initially provided £4.07 million of funding for the sub-region to support improved broadband which has been matched by our Project Partners (Coventry, Solihull and the Warwickshire Districts and Boroughs) and has attracted further private sector investment from BT.
- 1.4 During the procurement, the project managed to secure £375,000 additional funding from BDUK which was matched by Solihull MBC, one of our Project Partners. The total public investment for the project is £8.89 million.
- 1.5 After successfully completing the procurement, the contract for the implementation of a wholesale broadband network in Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire was awarded to BT in May 2013.
- 1.6 The project is aiming to make superfast broadband available to 91% of properties in the region with basic broadband services of at least 2Mbps available to 100% of properties by the completion of the roll-out planned for Q4 2015/16.
- 1.7 BT's commercial roll-out is due to be completed by spring 2014.

## **2. Warwickshire County Council Investment**

- 2.1 The number of premises across Warwickshire that will be upgraded as a result of the project is 46,833 which equates to 90% of the total number of premises in the CSW sub region being upgraded.
- 2.2 The Total Public Subsidy for the project throughout the region is £8,890,000. For Warwickshire the public investment is £8,045,114 (90% of total) of which BDUK is contributing £4,022,557.
- 2.3 The Local Authority investment in Warwickshire is £4,022,557 of which Warwickshire County Council are contributing £3,013,558.

## **3. Project Update**

- 3.1 The CSW Broadband project has made good progress since the contract was awarded and is currently within budget and is running in line with the plan.
- 3.2 The project is now in the Implementation Stage. Contractually, the project is organised in seven Phases for the deployment of superfast broadband and an eighth phase for the deployment of the remaining infill solutions.
- 3.3 In Phase 1 of the roll-out, BT is planning to implement 51 cabinets throughout CSW. Of these 51 cabinets 30 are located in Stratford District and 21 are located in North Warwickshire. Together, this equates to approx. 11,771 Total Homes Passed (THP), or 25% of the premises in Warwickshire to be upgraded as part of the project.
- 3.4 Surveys of these 51 cabinets have been completed and build work has commenced. According to the Implementation Plan installation for the Phase 1 cabs is scheduled to be completed by June 2014 and ready for service by September 2014.
- 3.5 The very first cabinet of this phase was commissioned and ready for service on 7th April 2014. This is a cabinet in the centre of Snitterfield village which featured in the press launch for the CSW Superfast Broadband project.
- 3.6 In Phase 2 of the roll-out, BT is planning to implement a further 41 cabinets throughout CSW. Of these 41 cabinets, 16 are located in the North Warwickshire, 15 in Warwick District, 6 in Stratford District and 4 in Nuneaton &

Bedworth. Together, this equates to approx. 8,925 THP, or 19% of the premises to be upgraded as part of the project.

- 3.7 Surveying of these cabinets has started and the installation work is expected to be completed by September 2014 with the cabinets ready for service by December 2014.
- 3.8 It is anticipated that approx. 44% of the targeted premises in Warwickshire will be upgraded to Next Generation Access in the first two phases.
- 3.9 It should be noted that the project is presently ahead of schedule with an overall increase in the number of cabinets upgraded in the first two contractual phases. This is detailed in the table included below:

Phase	Date	Contract THP*	Projected THP*
1	Q2 14/15	8,091	11,771
2	Q3 14/15	6,494	8,925
3	Q4 14/15	6,815	10,770
4	Q1 15/16	7,767	TBC
5	Q2 15/16	8,157	TBC
6	Q3 15/16	5,742	TBC
7	Q4 15/16	6,968	TBC

\*THP = Total Homes Passed.

- 3.10 As information about the roll-out becomes available it will be published on the CSW Broadband website – [www.cswbroadband.org.uk](http://www.cswbroadband.org.uk). The project has published a rolling 12-month programme which will be updated quarterly.

## 4. Future Planning

- 4.1 The initial BDUK/CSW project is scheduled to finish in 2016.
- 4.2 The government has announced the Superfast Extension Programme (SEP) with an aspiration to take Superfast Broadband coverage up to 95%.
- 4.3 It is important to note that this new target from government focuses on the availability of Superfast Broadband (24Mbps and above) and not just the availability of connection to NGA (Next Generation Access) technologies.
- 4.4 Based on the original premises information and Open Market Research (OMR) data from the start of the project in 2012, the current information available to the CSW project team indicates that 22,438 premises within Warwickshire are awaiting further funding for Superfast Connectivity. The minimum number of

premises to be addressed to meet the government target of 95% Superfast Broadband coverage will be an additional 9,972 premises.

## **5. Further Funding**

- 5.1 The government has announced funds of £3.68m to take Superfast Broadband coverage up to 95% throughout CSW (our current project will achieve 91%). However, this is only available through match funding.

5.2 We are actively investigating any and all other funding sources, and:-

- Are submitting a bid to the Warwickshire Capital Growth Fund to underwrite the Warwickshire element of the Superfast Extension Programme matched funding and project costs. It should be noted that the application for SEP funding, with confirmation of the availability of matched funding must be submitted by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014.
- We have recently made a submission through the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership European Structural Investment Funds Strategy for a total of £7.85m to extend the roll out of Superfast Broadband in Coventry & Warwickshire. It should be noted that we are not expecting to hear the outcome of this bid until late Autumn 2014 at the earliest.

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