



POLICY, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

PARKSIDE, STATION APPROACH, BURTON STREET, MELTON MOWBRAY

29 January 2014

PRESENT:-

Councillors J.B. Rhodes (Chairman), G.Bush,
M.M. Gordon, P.M. Posnett, D.R. Wright, J.Wyatt

Substitute: Councillor T.Moncrieff

Strategic Director (CAM)
Committee Support Officer (JR)

P58. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hutchison, O'Callaghan, and Simpson.

P59 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Rhodes and Councillor Posnett declared a personal and non pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Leicestershire County Council, due to their roles as County Councillors. In the context of the report both Councillors further declared an interest and made use of the exemption in accordance with Paragraph 13 (3)(g) of the Council's Code of Conduct. It was confirmed that all other members could participate in the decision making process in respect of the report.

Due to the following agenda item having an exempt document at Appendix A, which was to be considered and discussed, the Chair declared that the following exclusion be applied and this was agreed.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the Public be excluded during the consideration of the following item(s) of business in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (Access to Information: Exempt Information) under Paragraph 3.

P60. SUPERFAST BROADBAND IN MELTON MOWBRAY

The Strategic Director (CAM) submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) to seek Member's approval for the use of the allocated and approved £360,000 funding, to extend additional fibre broadband coverage in

Melton Borough, to be invested through Leicestershire County Council's contract with BT.

The Strategic Director (CAM) gave an overview of the position to date regarding the provision of broadband coverage within the Borough and advised that public investment is necessary to assist in ensuring that as many premises as possible, especially those in more rural areas, can benefit from the enhanced broadband service.

Discussion ensued on the two options for how the service would be delivered. It was explained that this could be via Fibre to the cabinet (FTTC) or in a minority of cases Fibre to the premises (FTTP). Download speeds of 80Mbit/s would be achieved through the FTTC option which greatly enhances usability. Leicestershire County Council is looking at making available a post code checker service for households to see if they will be receiving the service in their area. It is anticipated that, in September 2014, the first areas in the program will go "live" with further roll out over a period of 18 months.

The provision of the superfast broadband service would encourage more sustainability for private dwellings, businesses and employment in the Borough. As further digital services are being produced on a local and national level it is vital that the lack of broadband coverage is addressed. It is estimated that total public investment in broadband in Leicestershire will result in economic growth of £92m by 2021.

The proposal was moved by Councillor Wright and seconded by Councillor Wyatt. Following a vote the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the approved investment of £360,000 be progressed in order to improve fibre broadband coverage within Melton Borough;
- (2) that delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive to sign the Collaboration Agreement between Melton Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council subject to final agreement of the terms.

(The meeting returned to public session)

P61. **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business to discuss.

The meeting which commenced at 6.30pm, closed at 6.55pm

Chairman