

## **ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 14 NOVEMBER 2018**

### **SUPERFAST BROADBAND - UPDATE**

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#### **Summary**

1. The Panel is to be updated on progress of the roll-out of superfast broadband to Worcestershire residents and businesses.
2. Representatives from the Council's Superfast Worcestershire Programme and from BT / Openreach have been invited to the meeting.

#### **Background**

3. The County Council and BT formed a partnership known as Superfast Worcestershire, which aimed to deliver high speed broadband to 90% of Worcestershire homes and businesses (including 55,000 in rural locations) by June 2016.
4. The Council's contract with BT as broadband infrastructure supplier (set up in August 2013 – Contract 1), asks for an annual report to be submitted to scrutiny, to provide a summary of programme activity, achievements against targets for connecting residents and businesses, and how public concerns and demand have been managed. An update is attached at Appendix 1.
5. Deployment on Contract 1 was officially completed in July 2016. In Spring 2015 Contract 2 was signed and subsequently extended in March 2017. A third Superfast Worcestershire (Contract 3) was then signed in November 2017.

#### **Scrutiny to Date**

6. Previous Panel discussions have acknowledged the very positive levels of Worcestershire's broadband coverage and uptake.
7. The focus of the Panel's previous discussion on 29 November 2017 was to look at progress with the programme and Contract 2 (to increase the number of premises with access to superfast speeds by September 2017), communications to residents and also value for money.
8. A record of the Panel's last discussion on 29 November 2017 can be found [here](#)
9. The plan for delivery and progress with roll out has been regularly discussed with the Scrutiny Panel and the background papers section of this report provides links to these discussions.

## **Purpose of the Meeting**

10. The Panel is asked to consider the latest information provided on superfast broadband in Worcestershire, and:

- consider whether any further information or scrutiny is required at this time
- determine any comments or recommendations to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy and Infrastructure

## **Supporting Information**

Appendix 1 – Superfast Broadband Annual Update

## **Contact Points**

### Specific Contact Points for this Report

Emma James / Jo Weston, Overview and Scrutiny Officers, Tel: 01905 844964 / 844965  
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## **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda and Minutes of:

- Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 29 November 2017, 10 October 2016 and 30 September 2015
- Economy, Environment and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 17 September 2014 and 20 May 2015
- Cabinet on 5 February 2015, 15 October 2015 and 29 June 2017

Minutes and Agendas are available on the Council's website at

<http://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/mgListCommittees.aspx?bcr=1>