

# **Chief Executives' Group – North Yorkshire and York**

**14 February 2013**

## **Superfast North Yorkshire**

### **1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To provide an update on progress regarding the roll out of broadband and the steps being taken to encourage take up by businesses.

### **2. Roll-out**

- 2.1 The Superfast North Yorkshire (SFNY) project has now moved from "planning for delivery" mode to "delivery" mode with BT.
- 2.2 The physical roll out began in earnest in January 2013 and will continue until the end of 2014. There are over 700 cabinets to be upgraded in that period. As the detailed plans are signed off the details will be placed on the SFNY website.
- 2.3 The roll out will ensure that at least 90% of the residential and business premises in North Yorkshire and the City of York areas will have access to broadband of at least 25Mbps. For the remaining 10% (equivalent to 40000 premises) BT are required to provide a minimum of 2 Mbps.
- 2.4 The SFNY Vision is to provide equivalent superfast broadband to 100% of premises. Work is therefore in hand, in partnership with all the local authorities in North Yorkshire, to establish an overlay of community (probably wireless based) schemes that will provide, as far as is practically possible, comparable broadband to that available in the 90 % areas.
- 2.5 The SFNY team continue to provide briefings to Councillors (County / District / Parish), and local groups, across the County and are available to do more if that would be helpful in getting the message across about what is happening.
- 2.6 A practical issue that had to be overcome was the need to ensure that the roll out process was not delayed by "bureaucracy". To this end constructive meetings were held involving staff from the SFNY team and BT with senior officers from both Highways and Planning authorities. The aim was to ensure applications/ approvals re cabinets were progressed both efficiently and with due regard to local policies and circumstances etc. The intention was to avoid situations where the conclusion becomes, to put it simply, "no cabinet no broadband". The process is working well with any problems being resolved locally on a practical basis.
- 2.7 Summary details of the BT contract and other aspects of the roll-out are provided in the Appendix.

### **3 Business Support**

- 3.1 Approximately £3m of the ERDF grant has to be spent on Business Support. If the required outputs are not achieved the full £13m is technically at risk.
- 3.2 A contract to undertake this work has been awarded to the BE Group who have extensive experience of delivering ERDF funded projects. Given the “delivery risk” attached to this aspect of the SFNY project it was essential that a supplier was appointed who could be up and running “out of the box”. Following the contract signature on 22/11/12 the BE Group had staff on site at Roecliffe (NYnet’s offices) by 1/12/12 and their first events were held in January 2013.
- 3.3 Details of the Business Support contract and the targets to be achieved are provided in the Appendix.
- 3.4 One of the most frustrating aspects of the ERDF grant regime are the eligibility rules. Essentially food and farming are effectively excluded as are large aspects of tourism.
- 3.5 To help address this the County Council and BT have agreed to co-fund a Demand Stimulation (DS) Team who will work alongside the BT/NYnet people doing the roll-out as well as the BE Group staff. This team of 5 will cover all aspects of demand stimulation from marketing and PR through to organising the public meetings for the community schemes. The DS Team will also co-ordinate with staff in Borough / Districts / Parks to ensure that awareness of the roll-out and related activities are fully co-ordinated. For example following the success of the “Christmas Cabinet” event at Ainderby Steeple, arrangements are being made for a “cabinet launch” in each MPs area.
- 3.6 Because SMEs are part of communities in which they operate it is likely that they will attend the community based meeting organised by the DS Team. Steps are therefore being taken to ensure that DS team members are able to “use the materials” developed by the BE Group to help food / farming / tourism related SMEs.
- 3.7 A Business Steering Group has been established including representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, FSB, NFU, Science City, IoD, Enterprise Rockers, LEP, Welcome to Yorkshire as well as representatives from Craven DC and Hambleton DC. It is anticipated that the Group will be able to provide advice and practical support (e.g. contacts with local business groups) for the BE Group to follow up.

### **4 Further Information**

- 4.1 For further information on any aspect of the SFNY Project please visit the SFNY website [www.superfastnorthyorkshire.com](http://www.superfastnorthyorkshire.com) or contact John Moore on 07711375766 or by email at [john.moore@nynet.co.uk](mailto:john.moore@nynet.co.uk)

## **5 Recommendations**

5.1 To note the report

## **6 Appendices**

6.1 Appendix 1 – Superfast North Yorkshire Connecting our Community Presentation

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8<sup>th</sup> February 2013