**WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: WEDNESDAY 3 OCTOBER 2018**

**RURAL BROADBAND PROJECT UPDATE**

**REPORT OF GROUP MANAGER, BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES**

**(Contact: Phil Martin or Will Barton, Tel: (01993) 861201 or 861482)**

1. **PURPOSE**

   To update the Committee on the progress of the Superfast Broadband project to date.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

   That the report be noted.

3. **BACKGROUND**

   3.1. Gigaclear started work on Phase 1 of the project during the week commencing 13 November 2017. The table in Appendix A outlines the cabinet areas that are covered in Phase 1, the number of premises each area serves, when the build started, when the Cabinet went live and the % of back haul completed to date. Please note that the cabinet areas are wider than just the communities named below. A full breakdown of the roll out schedule can be found in Appendix B.

   3.2. In order for a cabinet to be 'live' it must have both power and be connected to the wider infrastructure, which is referred to as backhaul. In regards to the cabinet at Over Kiddington, the power is scheduled to be connected in early October and the backhaul at Lechlade-on-Thames is awaiting specialist support. Neither cabinet is having a negative impact on the roll out as the contractors can continue to build to the premises in this phase and others.

   3.3. The total number of premises covered in Phase 1 is split between commercially funded premises by Gigaclear, which are properties that have been identified as already being provided with Super Fast Broad Band (SFBB) and Public funded which are properties that currently do not have access to SFBB and are being funded by the Council and BDUK.

   3.4. To date over 69% of the premises in Phase 1 have been built / provided with a 'pot' which contains the fibre optic cables that the service runs over. When this figure is broken down by the different premises categories 75% of commercially funded properties and 63% of Public funded properties in Phase 1have been built to date.

   3.5. In addition to the communities / premises covered in Phase 1, Gigaclear have also started to build in 6 out of the 8 areas outlined in Phase 2 and the remaining areas in both Phase 2 & 3 are either just about to start, in validation or at the final design stage. To date 29% of the total commercially funded and 30% of the Public funded premises have been built.

   3.6. The project has progressed relatively smoothly considering its complexity and Gigaclear have been very responsive to queries or complaints from residents about the ongoing works. The scale of work did create a bottle neck agreeing necessary road closure notices but officers from WODC, OCC and Gigaclear have worked together to resolve the issues. We now know with hindsight that the project plan underestimated the time required to agree some necessary wayleaves but Gigaclear are directing extra resources to speed this up.

3.7.    Due to the way the project has been designed and the fact that Gigaclear now have 2 main contractors working on the Council project, work is being carried out simultaneously across the district, so reducing the impact of delays from the issues outlined above.

## 4.    FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1.    The value of the public funding for the contract is £3,156,675, which is made up of £1,600,000 from BDUK and £1,556,675 from the Council. The project is still within the agreed budgets and monitored closely by all parties.

4.2.    Payments will be made against four milestones using the prescribed BDUK model, whereby the number of premises being covered during each milestone are agreed prior to work beginning and then this is assessed against evidence provided by the contractor before any payments are made.

4.3.    The first scheduled payment is due at the end of September 2018 and these costs will be met from the BDUK funding as this will be used before the Council's capital is drawn down.

4.4.    This report does not in itself have any financial implications.

## 5.    RISKS/IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

5.1.    The key risks associated with the next phase of the project are:

- Delays to the roll out schedule due to getting the relevant permissions / permits to work on the highway

- Delays to some properties due to issue associated with agreeing Wayleaves / access across private land.

- Poor/ delayed communications with Parish Councils and Residents

5.2.    The project team will look to mitigate these by continuing to closely work with the OCC Highways and the contracted organisation to ensure that the Council's aim is delivered.

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Background Papers:
None

**Phase 1 Build Breakdown**

| Build Phase | Cabinet Area | Commercially funded Premises | Public funded Premises | Total | Build Start | Cabinet Live | % Backhaul Complete |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Phase 1 | South Leigh | 49 | 343 | **392** | 16/11/2017 | 16/07/2018 | 100% |
| | Tackley | 217 | 150 | **367** | 08/11/2017 | 13/02/2018 | 100% |
| | Kencot | 259 | 208 | **467** | 22/01/2018 | 25/06/2018 | 100% |
| | Ducklington | 118 | 310 | **428** | 22/01/2018 | 25/05/2018 | 100% |
| | Aston | 470 | 0 | **470** | 07/02/2018 | 25/07/2018 | 100% |
| | Church Hanborough | 51 | 309 | **360** | 07/02/2018 | 31/07/2018 | 100% |
| | Langford | 258 | 223 | **481** | 30/04/2018 | 03/08/2018 | 100% |
| | Lechlade-on-Thames | 205 | 0 | **205** | 19/06/2018 | | 40% |
| | Over Kiddington | 95 | 348 | **443** | 05/06/2018 | | 100% |
| Total | | 1722 | 1891 | **3613** | | | |

**Roll out schedule for West Oxfordshire Super-Fast Broad Band Project**



| Ref | Community Name | Build Start | Build Complete |
|-----|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1 | Ascott-under-wychwood (South East) | Nov 2018 | Q2 2019 |
| 2 | Aston (South East) | Under Construction | 30 Sep 2018 |
| 3 | Chadlington (South East) | Q2 2019 | Q4 2019 |
| 4 | Chastleton (South East) | Q2 2019 | Q4 2019 |
| 5 | Church Hanborough (South East) | Under Construction | Nov 2018 |
| 6 | Churchill (South East) | Q2 2019 | Q4 2019 |
| 7 | Curbridge (South East) | 17 Sep 2018 | Q1 2019 |
| 8 | Ducklington (South East) | Under Construction | 30 Sep 2018 |
| 9 | Fawler (South East) | Under Construction | Q4 2018 |
| 10 | Finstock (South East) | Under Construction | Q1 2019 |
| 11 | Great Rollright (South East) | Nov 2018 | Q3 2019 |
| 12 | Great Tew (South East) | Under Construction | Oct 2018 |
| 13 | Idbury (South East) | Q1 2019 | Q3 2019 |
| 14 | Kencot (South East) | Under Construction | Nov 2018 |
| 15 | Kingham (South East) | Q2 2019 | Q4 2019 |
| 16 | Langford (South East) | Under Construction | Oct 2018 |
| 17 | Leafield (South East) | Q1 2019 | Q2 2019 |
| 18 | Lechlade-on-thames (South West) | Under Construction | Oct 2018 |
| 19 | Minster Lovell (South East) | Under Construction | Q4 2018 |
| 20 | Over Kiddington (South East) | Under Construction | Oct 2018 |
| 21 | Ramsden (South East) | 01 Oct 2018 | Q2 2019 |
| 22 | Shipton-Under-Wychwood (South East) | Q1 2019 | Q3 2019 |
| 23 | Southcombe (South East) | Dec 2018 | Q2 2019 |
| 24 | South Leigh (South East) | Under Construction | 30 Sep 2018 |
| 25 | Swinbrook (South East) | Under Construction | Q4 2018 |
| 26 | Tackley (South East) | Under Construction | 30 Sep 2018 |