

Report of Director of City Development and Deputy Chief Executive

Report to Executive Board

Date: 18 December 2013

Subject: Broadband Update and Approval of Super Connected Cities programme (capital scheme number 16662 SCC)

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		

Summary of main issues

Purpose of this report

- Update Executive Board on progress and issues with broadband investment projects
- Seeks approval to proceed with the Super Connected Cities (SCC) project on the basis of the main part of the project being a business voucher scheme, not an infrastructure scheme
- Seeks approval for the proposed governance and risk management approach
- Seek agreement to proceed with recommendations to adopt a coherent approach to broadband investment

Access to fast reliable broadband is an essential prerequisite for future economic growth. Leeds City Council has a Best Council Plan objective to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth to improve the economic wellbeing of both local people and local businesses. The Council has been working on a number of initiatives in recent years to help to make a step change in broadband speeds and capacity for the benefit of both local residents and businesses.

This work has resulted in two partnership projects:

- a. The West Yorkshire Local Broadband Plan (WYLBP) - a joint project with West Yorkshire Local Authorities and Central Government. Operating under the 'Superfast West Yorkshire' brand, the project covers all of West Yorkshire other than the Super Connected Cities Priority Zone (see Appendix A). This project will deliver superfast¹ broadband by replacing copper with fibre in telephone exchanges and cabinets across West Yorkshire. The project includes a business support programme which aims to raise awareness amongst Small/Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) of the benefits of a superfast broadband connection and provide practical advice on how to benefit from this step change in digital technology.
- b. The second project is the Super Connected Cities (SCC) programme. This is a joint programme with Bradford which planned originally to deliver ultrafast² open access broadband infrastructure across the Leeds Bradford corridor as well as wifi on transport and in community hubs. Due to considerable state aid issues the main element of this project is now a voucher scheme to SME businesses.

The implications of the changes to the SCC project are significant. Whilst connection vouchers will be a useful support measure for some SME businesses the lack of a comprehensive scheme of infrastructure installation will result in continued slow speeds and 'white spots' (poor broadband coverage) in economically important and/or deprived areas. The voucher scheme will not address issues associated with 'leased lines'.

Responsibility for the scheme design lies with the Government. They have not been able to address the State Aid issues inherent in designing an infrastructure scheme for urban areas and have recast the programme accordingly. Letters to the Minister responsible have been met with a response which acknowledges the issues but restates the revised position with no room for further negotiation.

Notwithstanding this the voucher scheme still delivers benefits to businesses in Leeds and other aspects within the programme deliver opportunities for improved connectivity to residents.

This now leaves us with a number of challenges:

- Delivery of the voucher scheme, which will still create benefits albeit not at the scale originally envisaged. Within this we be mindful of managing risk particularly around creating expectations within the business community which the voucher scheme cannot address
- Taking a coherent view of both broadband investment projects and ensuring they deliver maximum benefit to Leeds
- Maintaining the pressure on Government and infrastructure providers to ensure that there is access to affordable and high quality connectivity across Leeds, but most particularly within our economically significant and deprived city fringe locations.

¹ Superfast broadband 24 megabits per second (mbps)

² Ultrafast speeds are those in the 30-80mbps range

Recommendations

Executive Board is recommended to:

1. Approve delivery of the Super Connected City programme by Leeds City Council on behalf of the partnership subject to the signing of a partnership agreement between Leeds and Bradford councils which sets out the responsibilities of both parties.
2. Note expenditure of £12.87m for the delivery of the Super Connected Cities programme in Leeds and Bradford, allocated as £6.5105m for Leeds and £6.3595m for Bradford. 100% funded through BDUK.
3. Approve the injection of and give the authority to spend £6.5105m of external funding into the capital programme (scheme reference 16662SCCCOM); subject to confirmation of funding from BDUK and a partnership agreement with Bradford Council. The remaining funds will be held for Bradford metropolitan district related expenditure.
4. Delegate authority to the Director of City Development, in consultation with the Executive Member for Development and the Economy, to take all actions required to deliver the Super Connected City programme. This includes;
 - approving individual schemes within the programme,
 - entering into a funding agreement on behalf of Leeds and Bradford councils with BDUK and any variations thereto,
 - entering into a partnership agreement with Bradford council which sets out the responsibilities of both parties
 - approving all other documentation required including grant, development and other agreements with third parties
 - establishing a fixed term temporary staffing structure to support the delivery of the programme.
5. Endorse the development of a coherent approach to addressing broadband issues across Leeds and West Yorkshire, to encompass communications with the public and businesses. This should include efforts to stimulate demand for broadband related services and to work with other council priorities as appropriate.
6. Continue to lobby Government and infrastructure providers to deliver improved broadband infrastructure across the metropolitan district. The priority for the Council is to improve connectivity in the city centre and SCC Priority Zone.
7. and to note:
 - The stages required to implement the decision as outlined in Appendix D;
 - Proposed timescales for implementation as outlined in Appendix D;
 - That the Head of Business Support will be responsible for implementation.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To inform Executive Board of the progress that has been made on broadband projects and seek approval for the Super Connected Cities programme.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The Council has developed proposals for broadband initiatives which will make significant improvements to broadband speeds and capacity within West Yorkshire. Access to modern broadband infrastructure delivering both speed and increased bandwidth is recognised as a key component of business competitiveness and is an important prerequisite for future economic growth for major business locations in the 21st Century.
- 2.2 In December 2010 the government launched the National Broadband Strategy: “Britain’s Superfast Broadband Future”. The strategy set out the Government’s vision for broadband in the UK, which is to ensure the UK has the best superfast (speeds of +24mbps) broadband network in Europe by 2015.
- 2.3 The Government, through the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS), established two programmes: the Rural Broadband fund (Local Broadband Plan) and the Urban Broadband Fund (Super Connected Cities programme). West Yorkshire Authorities were successful in their bids to both these programmes and established the West Yorkshire Local Broadband Plan project and the Super Connected Cities programme. The principal geographic area established for each is shown on the map at Appendix A. Recently the geographic scope of the Super Connected City programme has been widened to include the entire metropolitan districts of Leeds and Bradford.
- 2.4 Legal issues associated with State Aid have affected the development and delivery of both these programmes both nationally and locally. The result of extensive negotiations between the Government and the European Commission has resulted in two different State Aid positions.
- 2.5 In so called ‘rural areas’ Local Broadband Project funded programmes (the WYLBP) have the legal powers to contract directly with an infrastructure provider to extend the superfast³ network coverage provided by the commercial roll out by the private sector, principally BT Openreach and Virgin. This commercial roll out will conclude by April/May 2014. At this point around 89% of premises in the project area (all of West Yorkshire except the SCC Priority Zone) will have superfast broadband coverage, with speeds in excess of 24mbps. The WYLBP project will increase this coverage to around 97% of premises by September 2015. The remaining 3% within

³ Superfast speeds are considered those in excess of 24 mega bits per second (mbps)

the WYLBP area will be able to access at least 2mbps, which is considered as the minimum to view the BBC iPlayer or have a quality home working experience.

- 2.6 Although it was intended originally that Super Connected City programmes would be able to contract with infrastructure providers in the same way to support the installation of new infrastructure which would enable ultrafast⁴ broadband speeds, in early summer 2013 a State Aid challenge resulted in the national programme being redesigned. SCC programmes are now no longer able to contract directly with infrastructure providers, instead a voucher scheme has been designed which will offer connection vouchers to SME businesses in SCC areas to subsidise the capital charges associated with installing an improved broadband connection.
- 2.7 The changes to the SCC programme have had two main effects;
1. the network speed ambitions around the SCC programme have dropped from ultrafast to superfast and below thus diminishing an element of potential competitive advantage of the designated area. The result may mean that parts of the SCC Priority area have some of the poorest internet connectivity where they were originally envisaged to have some of the best in West Yorkshire.
 2. the original scheme would have installed new infrastructure on an open access basis which would have had the potential to benefit all residents and businesses within the area. In the revised scheme potentially little new infrastructure will be created on an open access basis.

Executive Board may find the Glossary of terms provided at Appendix C useful as they consider the following section.

- 2.8 Existing copper networks which businesses are already connected to are capable of delivering superfast connectivity provided that the premises are within close proximity to a fibre enabled cabinet. Whilst this is useful to the businesses concerned, as it reduces inconvenience and cost of installing new infrastructure, the reuse of the existing copper network generates no spin off benefits for local residents. For businesses which are not close to a fibre enabled cabinet and who want to upgrade their connection they will either need to consider a 'leased line' or wireless solutions, both of which can be supported through a connection voucher.
- 2.9 In these instances the scheme will have the effect of creating more closed access infrastructure, through the installation of new leased lines for the sole use of the applicant business. Perpetuating the closed lease line model (with comparatively high ongoing revenue costs to businesses and no spin off benefits to commercial or residential neighbours) is a paradox within the scheme design.
- 2.10 This situation is particularly pertinent in Leeds and Bradford city centres because the information we have from BT Openreach and Virgin suggests that there will be little further roll out through their own commercial programmes. This will leave a

⁴ Ultrafast speeds are those in the 30-80mbps range

situation where there is little open access infrastructure in the city centres and the leased line model will continue to dominate provision in these locations.

- 2.11 As noted at 2.9 because the voucher scheme is likely to create very little additional infrastructure (and that which may be created is likely to be closed access) residents in the SCC Priority Zone are potentially disadvantaged because they cannot 'piggyback' off new open access installations.
- 2.12 Residents in the remainder of the district will fall under the extension of the commercial rollout of superfast broadband funded through the WYLBP. Assisting residents on a large scale in SCC Priority Zone is outside of the scope of the revised programme (which is primarily business focused). Gaining better understanding of the issues involved in assisting residential connections in the SCC Priority Zone is imperative if the council wishes to devise further interventions to support residents in the future. (Executive Board should note that through the SCC programme all libraries, galleries, museums and visitor centres will have free wifi installed for users to access with their own devices. There is the potential to consider installing wifi at community centres in local authority ownership as a later phase within the Digital Services Infrastructure strand – see 3.1.2)
- 2.13 These issues have been raised with Broadband UK (BDUK) the arm of DCMS responsible for delivering the Government's broadband investment projects. Cllr Wakefield has written to the Minister on behalf of the Association of West Yorkshire Authorities (AWYA). The Chair of the SCC Project Board has also written to the Minister on these matters.
- 2.14 Notwithstanding these issues the Connection Voucher scheme will deliver a number of benefits. It is a significant level of resource (£9.8m) to support businesses in an area that is increasingly important to them. Connection Vouchers will pay for the connection charges (including excess construction charges) associated with installing an improved connection – for some businesses these costs may be a significant disincentive without the voucher. In Leeds and Bradford Connection Vouchers will form a significant part of the offer associated with the provision of business support through the WYLBP scheme. Over the next two years there will be a sustained campaign of profile raising around improved broadband connections and the range of benefits this can bring business owners. Encouraging businesses to adopt new technology to improve their productivity, working methods and/or explore new markets is a key part of helping businesses to grow.
- 2.15 As noted at 2.6 the SCC programme was redesigned in summer 2013. In May 2013 Leeds and Bradford submitted a revised programme to BDUK. The revised bid opened out the intervention area from the narrower Super Connected City corridor identified in the original scheme (see Appendix A) to include the whole of both local authority areas. The original corridor between Leeds and Bradford has been recast as the SCC Priority Zone.
- 2.16 The revised bid sought funding to deliver a connection voucher scheme for SME businesses, install general purpose ducting at two key economic development sites, including the Aire Valley Leeds Enterprise Zone, install wifi equipment in museums, galleries, libraries and visitor centres across both districts and to install free wifi for

public transport commuters between the two cities. The bid also requested funding for a demonstrator project with a social housing provider in Bradford to explore telehealth opportunities. Government confirmation of funding for all elements except the social housing project was received in September 2013 and a grant agreement is now being drawn up to be signed in January 2014.

- 2.17 The government has proposed a further broadband support scheme commencing in 2015 and running until 2017 as part of its target to ensure that Superfast broadband is available to 95% of the UK population by 2017. This funding may be available to assist in the provision of further Superfast Broadband in urban areas such as the Leeds Bradford SCC Priority Zone shown on the map at Appendix A in addition to possibly increasing further superfast broadband coverage across the West Yorkshire area. However the State Aid limitations on this proposed scheme are unclear at this time.
- 2.18 An Executive Board decision on 18 July 2012 committed the Council to a funding contribution of £3.345m towards broadband projects. This breaks down as, up to a £1m for the WYLBP project, £2m for the SCC and £345k for the delivery of both projects. In July 2013 a further report to Executive Board approved the WYLBP project to enter into contract with BT for delivery and contained an update on the Super Connected city programme at that time. The revised SCC programme has been agreed without reference to any potential local authority contribution. However, in the light of the limitations of the scheme described at 2.6 and 2.7 and the uncertainty around the extent of future schemes described at 2.17, it is recommended that the remaining £2m capital allocation is held in contingency at this time should there be any unresolved broadband issues as part of this programme.

3 Main issues

This section describes the main issues associated with delivery of the SCC programme.

- 3.1 **The SCC programme** will deliver a number of project strands as described below:
- 3.1.1 **Vouchers:** offering a subsidy payment to an SME or (potentially, in some cases) a consumer to wholly or partially fund the installation charges for new superfast broadband connections. An important element of work within this strand will relate to business engagement and demand stimulation. There will be considerable interface between the voucher scheme and the business support programme delivered through the WYLBP. **Total value £9.8m**
- 3.1.2 **Digital Service Infrastructure:** this strand of the programme consists of four elements:
- Community Wireless: utilising our existing network of static and mobile libraries as community wi-fi hubs to offer a local network of connectivity for citizens.
 - Improving the visitor experience offering real-time digital updates on events and access to visitor guides to coincide with the Tour De France Grand Depart in 2014.

- Enhancing the cultural offer in our museums via new and innovative approaches to delivering information including carrying out online research.
- Improving digital literacy using the cities' libraries as venues to support people to get online and learn how to use computers to assist them in their everyday life. **Total value £1.6m**

3.1.3 **Transport Wireless:** on-board free wireless connectivity for the Leeds Bradford Corridor for public transport utilising both Bus (no 72) and Train services (Airedale Line). **Total value £0.80m**

3.1.4 **General Purpose Ducting:** construction of general purpose ducting capable of carrying broadband plus one other utility at two critical economic development locations (LCR Enterprise Zone and a new enterprise park in Bradford). **Total value £0.65m**

3.2 **Programme governance and relationships**

A SCC project board has been set up with senior representatives from Leeds and Bradford Councils. The Board is supported by a Project Team which has worked through the details of the individual projects within the programme. The Project Team have also been in liaison with colleagues working on the WYLBP to ensure that there is 'read across' between the programmes. This work will become more significant as both the SCC and WYLBP become operational and begin delivery.

3.3 In order to minimise confusion amongst client groups across different geographies and to maximise the benefits and uptake of both schemes it is essential that a coherent approach to project delivery and governance is developed. Further work is required to draw these projects together into a coherent approach for Leeds and the wider city region.

3.4 By acting as lead authority the Council is taking on some risk as the counterparty to the bodies providing and receiving the funding. The most significant risks on any of these schemes are:

- i. the Council becomes obliged to provide funding to a 3rd party before that funding is received from BDUK;
- ii. the 3rd party recipient of the funding does not deliver what is required of them, putting the Council in breach of the BDUK funding agreement; and
- iii. state aid risk.

3.5 Risks (i) and (ii) are mitigated through the operation of the partnership agreement and the project team will put documentation in place on each element of the scheme to further reduce and mitigate these risks. Risk (iii) will be mitigated by both the Council and BDUK examining the state aid implications of each individual scheme and taking internal and external legal advice as appropriate.

3.6 The Director of City Development will be briefed on the risks and mitigations prior to approval of each element of the scheme. Members should note that the Director of City Development is authorising entry into the partnership agreement using his existing delegated powers.

- 3.7 It is important that Leeds along with Bradford and other neighbouring authorities continue to lobby and work with Government to find infrastructure solutions that will enhance and open up broadband networks within the city centres and the wider SCC area. This will be critical in both helping to reduce on-going costs for broadband services and helping to improve social inclusion within some of the most deprived areas of the City.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 To date there has been limited wider engagement on the SCC programme as the State Aid delays meant that there was uncertainty about whether individual schemes within the programme would go ahead. As the State Aid position is now clearer work will progress to engage with a broad range of stakeholders.
- 4.1.2 The Superfast West Yorkshire portal represents the public face of the West Yorkshire Local Broadband Plan and contains key information about the West Yorkshire scheme. It also contains some information about the SCC scheme for businesses. To date the portal has recorded over 1500 registrations by residents and businesses for better broadband access at their location. The site has had over 50 enquiries from residents and businesses about the West Yorkshire scheme.
- 4.1.3 The December Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Economic Survey will include several questions on the needs of businesses in relation to broadband and business support. The results of this survey will be available in the new year and will be fed into the marketing and communications plan for the SCC voucher scheme to businesses.
- 4.1.4 Reports have been taken to Association of West Yorkshire Authorities to keep all Leaders and Chief Executives informed of progress on both schemes. The Executive Member for Development and the Economy, the Leader and the Leader of the Opposition have been briefed.
- 4.1.5 A full briefing to members on both broadband schemes will be developed over the next month with information to help them manage enquiries from constituents. The briefing will set out the timetables associated with both schemes and what will be delivered where and when.

4.2 Equality and Diversity/Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 A screening document was prepared for the West Yorkshire Local Broadband Plan in August 2013. An independent impact assessment was not required for the approvals requested by that report. A screening document for the revised SCC programme has been prepared and is attached as Appendix B. An independent impact assessment is not required for the approvals requested.
- 4.2.2 The SCC programme supports equality of access in a number of ways. Three strands within the programme deliver open access free at the point of use wifi for

use by any user with a mobile device in the vicinity of the equipment. This relates to (i) the free wifi concessions on Millennium Square and Briggate, (ii) the provision of free wifi in all libraries, museums, galleries and visitor centres, and (iii) the provision of free wifi on buses operating the number 72 bus route between Leeds and Bradford and provision of free wifi on commuter trains running between the two cities.

- 4.2.3 The largest element of the SCC programme, the connection vouchers scheme has no sector restrictions and can award vouchers to SME businesses operating across any business sector. The potential issue around equality is to ensure that the scheme is well promoted and is taken up across the entire business population. The marketing and communication plan outlines the ways in which the scheme will seek to engage with a wide variety of business networks to promote connection vouchers and encourage take up.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 The projects fit with the Leeds Growth Strategy which has been agreed by the Executive Board. They also fit with the City Priorities, particularly creating more jobs for the city as the broadband speeds will contribute to competitiveness. The programme fits with the council's Best Council objective to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth to improve the economic wellbeing of both local people and local businesses.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 The table below shows the amounts of funding available to support the different projects within the programme. The funding profile is taken from the offer letter from BDUK dated 29th October 2013.

Item	£m
Vouchers	£9.8
Digital Services	£1.62
Transport Wireless	£0.80
General purpose Ducting	£0.65
Total	£12.87

- 4.4.2 Subject to approval by Executive Board, the Director of City Development will enter in a funding agreement with BDUK on behalf of Leeds and Bradford councils to deliver the SCC programme in early January 2014.
- 4.4.3 The demand stimulation and business support activities will be funded through revenue conversions to the DCMS Grant funding for vouchers and the WYLBP programme.

4.4.4 Leeds City Council's portion of the external capital funding equates to £6.5105m. This is slightly over half of the allocation due to the Leeds portion of the General Purpose Ducting award being £400k and Bradford's £250k.

Funding Approval :	Capital Section Reference Number :-		16662/SCC/000			
Previous total Authority to Spend on this scheme	TOTAL	TO MARCH				
	£000's	2013	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016 on
		£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
LAND (1)	0.0					
CONSTRUCTION (3)	0.0					
FURN & EQPT (5)	40.5		40.5			
DESIGN FEES (6)	0.0					
OTHER COSTS (7)	0.0					
TOTALS	40.5	0.0	40.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Authority to Spend required for this Approval	TOTAL	TO MARCH				
	£000's	2013	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016 on
		£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
LAND (1)	0.0					
CONSTRUCTION (3)	400.0			400.0		
FURN & EQPT (5)	1210.0			1210.0		
DESIGN FEES (6)	0.0					
OTHER COSTS (7)	4859.5		50.0	1840.0	2969.5	
TOTALS	6469.5	0.0	50.0	3450.0	2969.5	0.0
Total overall Funding (As per latest Capital Programme)	TOTAL	TO MARCH				
	£000's	2013	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016 on
		£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Unsupported Borrowing	2172.5			1140.5	1032.0	
Government Grant (BDUK)	6510.0		90.5	3450.0	2969.5	
Total Funding	8682.5	0.0	90.5	3450.0	2969.5	0.0
Balance	2172.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Revenue Effects

There will be no effects on the department's revenue budget as a consequence of this project:

REVENUE EFFECTS	2013/14	2013/14 and SUBSEQUENT YEARS
	£000's	£000'S
EMPLOYEES	0.0	0.0
PREMISES COSTS	0.0	0.0
SUPPLIES & SERVICES	0.0	0.0
EXTERNAL INCOME GENERATED	0.0	0.0

4.4.5 All payments will be made by Leeds who as the accountable body will be responsible for reclaiming all monies incurred on the project.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 The Council is using in-house legal resource to advise on the programme process and arrangements.
- 4.5.2 This report does not contain confidential information.
- 4.5.3 This report is subject to call-in.
- 4.5.4 There are some legal risks inherent in this programme which are described in further detail in paragraph 3.4.
- 4.5.5 As outlined at 3.4 there are risks involved in taking part in this programme and risks for the Council involved in taking on the role of lead authority. However, risk mitigation measures are in place through the partnership agreement and agreements with third parties will be drafted in such a way as to further reduce and mitigate these risks. Legal advice including advice from external legal Counsel has also been commissioned to advise on some state aid issues. The Director of City Development will be briefed on risks and mitigations before any element of the scheme is approved.

4.5 Risk Management

- 4.5.1 As outlined at 3.4 and 3.5 there are risks involved in taking part in this programme and risks for the Council involved in taking on the role of lead authority. However, risk mitigation measures are in place through both the partnership agreement and the contract with the supplier. External legal Counsel has also been commissioned to advise the Partnership on State Aid issues. No contract will be entered into with any supplier until all funding is committed.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 The investment in broadband both nationally and locally is aimed at increasing competitiveness to improve economic recovery. Business needs and personal lives are increasingly reliant on high broadband speeds and therefore this project will mean more residents and businesses will have access to the speeds that make a real difference to how we work.
- 5.2 The revisions to the SCC programme nationally mean that the benefits to Leeds will not be on the scale originally envisaged. Notwithstanding this the scheme will deliver benefits to businesses and residents in Leeds.
- 5.3 The SCC programme aims to realise the following benefits:
- Wider access to broadband for the general population
 - Improved productivity of SMEs by increasing network coverage and speed
 - Boosting innovation and collaborative performance
 - Strengthening the competitive position of Leeds and attracting inward investment

- Environmental benefits such as homeworking, e-commerce, enhanced supply chain management, video linking

5.4 The Council needs to continue to lobby Government and infrastructure providers to ensure good quality affordable connectivity options are available throughout the city and particularly in the area defined as the SCC Priority Zone.

5.5 In the context of both the broadband investment projects currently in development for Leeds (SCC and WYLBP) the Council needs to consider how it can best support residents across the city, and particularly in deprived communities, to access and take advantage of new technology. As noted at 2.12 it is important that this work be underpinned by a better understanding of access issues – be they related to physical location, age, income or other factors.

6 Recommendations

Executive Board is recommended to:

6.1 Approve delivery of the Super Connected City programme by Leeds City Council on behalf of the partnership subject to the signing of a partnership agreement between Leeds and Bradford councils which sets out the responsibilities of both parties..

6.2 Note expenditure of £12.87m for the delivery of the Super Connected Cities programme in Leeds and Bradford, allocated as £6.5105m for Leeds and £6.3595m for Bradford. 100% funded through BDUK

6.3 Approve the injection of and give the authority to spend £6.5105m of external funding into the capital Inject £6.5105m of external funding into the capital programme (scheme reference 16662SCCCOM); subject to confirmation of the funding from BDUK and a partnership agreement with Bradford Council. The remaining funds will be held for Bradford metropolitan district related expenditure.

6.4 Delegate authority to the Director of City Development, in consultation with the Executive Member for Development and the Economy, to take all actions required to deliver the Super Connected City programme including;

- approving individual schemes within the programme,
- entering into a funding agreement on behalf of Leeds and Bradford councils with BDUK and any variations thereto,
- entering into a partnership agreement with Bradford council which sets out the responsibilities of both parties
- approving all other documentation required including grant, development and other agreements with third parties
- establishing a fixed term temporary staffing structure to support the delivery of the programme.

6.5 Endorse the development of a coherent approach to addressing broadband issues across the Leeds and West Yorkshire, to encompass communications with the public and businesses. This should include efforts to stimulate demand for broadband related services and to work with other council priorities as appropriate.

6.6 Continue to lobby Government and infrastructure providers to deliver improved broadband infrastructure across the metropolitan district. The priority for the Council is to improve connectivity in the city centre and SCC Priority Zone.

6.7 and to note:

- The stages required to implement the decision as outlined in Appendix D;
- Proposed timescales for implementation as outlined in Appendix D;
- That the Head of Business Support will be responsible for implementation.

7 Appendices

7.1 Appendix A map showing the geographical extent of the WYLBP and SCC programmes

7.2 Appendix B Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening document

7.3 Appendix C Glossary of terms

7.4 Appendix D Timescales and milestones

8 Background documents⁵

8.1 None

⁵ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.