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PUBLIC

To: Members of Improvement and Scrutiny Committee - Places

Tuesday, 21 July 2020

Dear Councillor,

Please attend a meeting of the **Improvement and Scrutiny Committee - Places** to be held at **10.00 am** on **Wednesday, 29 July 2020**. This meeting will be held virtually. As a member of the public you can view the virtual meeting via the County Council's website. The website will provide details of how to access the meeting, the agenda for which is set out below.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Hobbs', written over a white background.

Simon Hobbs
Director of Legal and Democratic Services

A G E N D A

PART I - NON-EXEMPT ITEMS

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To receive declarations of interest (if any)
3. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2019 (Pages 1 - 4)

4. Public Questions (30 minute maximum in total) (Pages 5 - 6)

(Questions may be submitted to be answered by the Scrutiny Committee, or Council officers who are attending the meeting as witnesses, on any item that is within the scope of the Committee. Please see the procedure for the submission of questions at the end of this agenda)

5. Digital Derbyshire Programme update (Pages 7 - 24)

6. Social Distancing Measures in Town Centres and Footway Maintenance

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MINUTES of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PLACES** held at County Hall, Matlock on 20 November 2019.

P R E S E N T

Councillor S Bull (in the Chair)

Councillors K S Athwal, E Atkins, D Charles, H Elliott, L Grooby, J Innes, T Kemp and P Makin.

Also in attendance were Frank Horsley, Becky Lomas and Rob Lowe.

12/19 **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24 July 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

13/19 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** There were no public questions.

14/19 **BUSINESS SUPPORT FOR THE TOURISM SECTOR** Frank Horsley, the Head of Economic Development attended the meeting to inform Members of the business support that the County Council made available for the Tourism Sector. Members had previously enquired what help and information was available for small businesses who wished to provide a service to visitors. Mr Horsley highlighted the following:

Marketing Peak District and Derbyshire (MPDD)

This provided tourism promotion and marketing activity nationally and internationally to enable growth within the visitor economy. MPDD engaged directly with national bodies such as Visit Britain and Visit England.

Derbyshire Culture, Heritage and Tourism Board (CHAT)

Provided strategic direction and support to ensure the sector delivered a high quality product for the visitor. The CHAT Action Plan sought to deliver key interventions across a range of key themes, including accommodation, assets and attractions.

D2N2 Growth Hub

This was the single point of access for business advice and support to small and medium enterprises across the LEP area, providing information, diagnosis and brokerage. It was available to all sectors including Visitor Economy.

Derwent Valley Mills Great Place Scheme: Vital Valley

The £1.285m scheme pilots new approaches that enabled cultural and community groups including businesses to work more closely together and to place heritage at the heart of communities.

Mr Horsley provided an update on the progress of the Festival of Derbyshire and the events that were planned. The Festival of Derbyshire would commence in 2020 and would celebrate a series of key cultural and historic anniversaries for the County.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Mr Horsley for his presentation.

15/19 **THRIVING COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME** Becky Lomas from the Policy and Research Division attended the meeting to provide Members with an update on progress in developing the Thriving Communities approach across the Council and on plans for expanding and mainstreaming into new communities.

Since 2013, the Council had been working closely with local people and staff in five communities, to co-design ways of working to mobilise both the system and Derbyshire's communities. What began as a collective cross-agency investigation into the difficulties faced by families with complex needs in the most disadvantaged communities, had grown into a whole-system programme of cultural change for public services which was attracting national attention.

Between February and July 2019, an acceleration programme had been undertaken in Shirebrook, to refine the Thriving Communities model and assess the organisational conditions necessary to mainstream the approach into new areas. Details of the work this had involved was presented.

Leadership development and capabilities, alignment of organisational structures and the continuation of growing the Thriving Communities model within communities was being supported by a delivery partner Worldwide International Global Solutions (WIGS), who had been working with the Council since the inception of this work.

A Guidebook for Thriving Communities was currently in production, which would support staff, Elected Members and partners in utilising and embedding council-wide delivery of the approach. It was anticipated that a first version of this guidebook would be available in the New Year. This would coincide with the selection of eight new areas in which the next phase of Thriving Communities work would be undertaken. The new areas would come on stream and implement the approach by April 2020.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Becky Lomas for her presentation.

RESOLVED to note the progress in developing the Thriving Communities programme and plans to embed the approach over the coming months.

16/19 **VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR GRANTS REVIEW**

Rob Lowe from Policy and Research attended the meeting to update Members on the Council's review of voluntary and community sector funding.

On 28 February 2019, Cabinet agreed plans to undertake a council wide review of VCS grants. It was agreed that the review would:

- Consider all grants provided by the Council to VCS organisations in Derbyshire and subsequently develop a coordinated and consistent council wide approach to allocate future resources
- Consider the support provided by the Council to VCS infrastructure organisations across Derbyshire, in collaboration with partners, and develop a new model for allocating funding moving forward which supported the Council's ambitions and priorities.

Since February 2019, the Council had undertaken a review of the grants currently provided to voluntary and community sector organisations and a proposal for the future delivery of VCS infrastructure support, was now in development. Work to undertake and complete the review would take place over the next twelve months with a number of key identified milestones. The proposed end date for completion and implementation of the infrastructure review was August 2020, with the wider grants funding review expected to be completed and implemented by September 2020.

Engagement with partners such as CCGs and district and borough councils had already taken place and it was expected that a report would be submitted to Cabinet early in the New Year, seeking approval to consult on the proposals with other key stakeholders.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Rob Lowe for his most informative presentation.

RESOLVED to note the progress made on the review of the Council's voluntary and community sector grants.

17/19 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** It was announced that the meeting scheduled for 26 February 2020 would be cancelled. Following a multi-agency de-briefing at the beginning of March, Liz Partington will be attending the next meeting to update the Committee on the work undertaken during and after the Toddbrook Dam incident. Therefore, the next meeting will be arranged for some time in March 2020.

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Procedure for Public Questions at Improvement and Scrutiny Committee meetings

Members of the public who are on the Derbyshire County Council register of electors, or are Derbyshire County Council tax payers or non-domestic tax payers, may ask questions of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committees, or witnesses who are attending the meeting of the Committee. The maximum period of time for questions by the public at a Committee meeting shall be 30 minutes in total.

Order of Questions

Questions will be asked in the order they were received in accordance with the Notice of Questions requirements, except that the Chairman may group together similar questions.

Notice of Questions

A question may only be asked if notice has been given by delivering it in writing or by email to the Director of Legal Services no later than 12noon three working days before the Committee meeting (i.e. 12 noon on a Wednesday when the Committee meets on the following Monday). The notice must give the name and address of the questioner and the name of the person to whom the question is to be put.

Questions may be emailed to democratic.services@derbyshire.gov.uk

Number of Questions

At any one meeting no person may submit more than one question, and no more than one such question may be asked on behalf of one organisation about a single topic.

Scope of Questions

The Director of Legal Services may reject a question if it:

- Exceeds 200 words in length;
- is not about a matter for which the Committee has a responsibility, or does not affect Derbyshire;
- is defamatory, frivolous or offensive;
- is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of the Committee in the past six months; or
- requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.

Submitting Questions at the Meeting

Questions received by the deadline (see **Notice of Question** section above) will be shared with the respondent with the request for a written response to be provided by 5pm on the last working day before the meeting (i.e. 5pm on Friday before the meeting on Monday). A schedule of questions and responses will be produced and made available 30 minutes prior to the meeting (from Democratic Services Officers in the meeting room).

It will not be necessary for the questions and responses to be read out at the meeting, however, the Chairman will refer to the questions and responses and invite each questioner to put forward a supplementary question.

Supplementary Question

Anyone who has put a question to the meeting may also put one supplementary question without notice to the person who has replied to his/her original question. A supplementary question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. The Chairman may reject a supplementary question on any of the grounds detailed in the **Scope of Questions** section above.

Written Answers

The time allocated for questions by the public at each meeting will be 30 minutes. This period may be extended at the discretion of the Chairman. Any questions not answered at the end of the time allocated for questions by the public will be answered in writing. Any question that cannot be dealt with during public question time because of the non-attendance of the person to whom it was to be put, will be dealt with by a written answer.



DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - PLACES

29 July 2020

DIGITAL DERBYSHIRE PROGRAMME UPDATE

1. Purpose of the report.

Digital Derbyshire has been asked to provide an update on the Digital Derbyshire fibre broadband programme with particular focus on how the programme is meeting the needs of rural communities and the increase in home working due to the COVID19 virus.

2. Delivery

The Digital Derbyshire programme consists of two separate contracts and delivery phases.

Contract 1 was completed in October 2016 and delivered fibre broadband to 85,904 premises of which 81,610 were able to receive a download speed in excess of 24Mbps.

Contract 2 is due to be completed at the end of 2020 and is on target to deliver fibre broadband to around 28,000 premises of which over 22,000 will be able to receive download speeds in excess of 24 Mbps.

This takes the combined total across both contracts to over 100,000 premises in Derbyshire that are now able to receive Superfast broadband services.

3. Gain Share and Take-up

Built into both contracts with BT is a “Gain Share” component, based on the level of take up of the upgraded service. The greater the take up, the more money the Council can “claw back” and reassign to upgrade broadband services in harder to reach areas. Consequently, Digital Derbyshire undertakes public engagement and demand stimulation activities to raise awareness when improved broadband services are available in an area. To do this the Digital Derbyshire team works with parish councils, county and district councillors and MPs to disseminate information. We also attach Digital Derbyshire branding to

the Green Cabinets and deliver information leaflets to residents.

The take up of fibre services in 2015 was 10.77% which improved to 46.74% in April 2017. Take up now stands at 63%.

4. Broadband Delivery to Rural Communities

Access to good quality broadband services is essential for rural communities and this has been highlighted by the recent COVID19 related demand for internet access as people are confined to their homes and the huge increase in homeworking.

Delivering fibre broadband to rural communities is particularly challenging due to the high costs associated with the installation of fibre optic cabling and the logistical difficulties presented by rural environments and topography. These include but are not restricted to, narrow roads, dry stone walls, lack of footpaths, lack of re-useable cable ducting, rocky ground conditions, long transmission distances and low population densities.

Digital Derbyshire works very closely with the Openreach planning and estimating teams to try to reduce these costs to enable as many rural communities as possible to be upgraded to fibre within the Value for Money framework.

Despite these challenges the Digital Derbyshire Programme has been very successful in delivering fibre broadband to rural communities that would otherwise have not received a service, please see the attached list for examples of the communities we have delivered to



DD Delivered Rural
Wards.xlsx

To date Digital Derbyshire has brought fibre broadband to around 23,000 homes and businesses in rural communities across Derbyshire.

5. Rural Gigabit Voucher (RGC) Scheme

For the hard to reach rural areas where it's not possible for Digital Derbyshire to roll out fibre broadband there is a potential solution known as the Rural Gigabit Voucher scheme.

This has been developed by the UK government to provide subsidised broadband installation to rural homes and businesses that are currently unable to access a fibre broadband service and who will not benefit from the superfast broadband roll out.

The scheme provides vouchers towards the cost of full fibre installations (FTTP), up to the value of £1500 for residential properties and £3500 for business premises. Voucher values can be pooled for community schemes

Digital Derbyshire signposts communities to this scheme where appropriate and provides ongoing support to the community through the process as required.

6. Community Fibre Partnerships

Community Fibre Partnerships is an Openreach initiative where they work with the local community to build a customised fibre solution to bring fibre broadband to the homes and businesses. Openreach contributes towards the cost of the installation and the community funds the remainder, which can be in the form of RGC vouchers.

7. Moving forward.

The Digital Derbyshire programme is in the final year of Contract 2. We are currently engaging with Openreach and BDUK to seek an extension to the programme to utilise gainshare re-investment to extend the delivery of fibre broadband to more Derbyshire communities.

Digital Derbyshire is keen to work with DCMS and play an active part in any upcoming initiatives to ensure that Derbyshire receives an appropriate share of the recently announced £5b Gigabit programme and that rural communities in Derbyshire are suitably represented in the process.

Naim Waqas (Digital Derbyshire Project Officer)
Andrew Globe (Digital Derbyshire Engagement Officer)

Digital Derbyshire

Derbyshire County Council

Scrutiny Committee

29th July 2020

What is Digital Derbyshire?

- Upgrade fibre services in rural/semi urban areas
- National framework
- Supplier and partner – Openreach
- Reduce the digital divide
- Complex infrastructure project
- Fibre To The Cabinet (FTTC) and Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) technology.

Phase 1

- Contract 1
- Completed October 2016
- Fibre broadband available to 85, 904 premises.
- 81,610 receiving Superfast or above download speeds. (24+ Mbps).

Phase 2

- Contract 2
- Due to complete at the end of 2020
- On target to deliver fibre broadband to around 28,000 premises additional to phase 1.
- Of which around 22,000 receiving Superfast download speeds.

Total Delivery

- Combined Phase 1 and 2 delivery
- Over 100,000 premises in Derbyshire will be able to receive Superfast broadband services by the end of 2020

Take up of fibre

- April 2015 - 10.77% take up of fibre services
- June 2016 - 31.5%
- April 2017 – 46.74%
- April 2020 – 63%
- Important to increase and maintain a high take up figure for DCC
- Gainshare mechanism linked to take up.

Demand Stimulation

- Public engagement
- MPs
- County and District Councillors
- Parish Councils
- DD stickers on cabinets
- DD leaflets delivered to communities
- DD website
- DD mailbox

Cabinet sticker example



Broadband delivery to rural communities

- Fibre broadband is essential for homes and businesses
- COVID19 highlighted this demand
- Working from home, home schooling, entertainment.
- Delivery to rural communities is challenging due to logistical difficulties and topography.
- High costs v low population density also adds to the complexity.
- DD works closely with Openreach planning team to identify opportunities for rural delivery.
- Delivered fibre broadband to around 23,000 rural homes and businesses.

Broadband delivery to rural communities

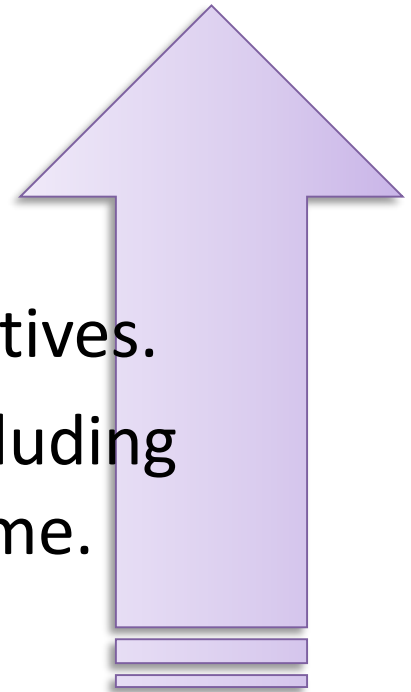


Broadband delivery to rural communities

- Delivery to rural communities in all 9 Derbyshire districts.
- Roll out map and interactive map available on Digital Derbyshire website
- <https://www.digitalderbyshire.org.uk/where-and-when/maps/maps.aspx>

Moving Forward

- Exploring the opportunities to extend the fibre footprint in Derbyshire
- Active participation in the £5bn Gigabit programme.
- Investigating D2N2 Digital inclusion initiatives.
- Potential voucher “Top up” schemes, including Rural Gigabit Connectivity Voucher Scheme.



Useful Websites

Digital Derbyshire

<http://www.digitalderbyshire.org.uk/>

BT Wholesale checker

<https://www.broadbandchecker.btwholesale.com/#/ADSL>

Openreach Fibre Broadband - See how it's built

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p0qN5XHui5Q>

Community Fibre Partnerships

<https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/community-fibre-partnerships>

Gigabit Voucher Scheme

<https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/>

Any Questions?

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