

Decision details

Aylesbury Vale Broadband

Decision Maker: Chief Executive

Decision status: Recommendations Approved

Is Key decision?: Yes

Is subject to call in?: No

Purpose:

To approve the allocation of an additional £550,000 loan from the initial £1.536m of New Homes Bonus funds that have been committed by Council to support the further expansion of the roll out of broadband in the Vale by Aylesbury Vale Broadband

Decision:

To approve the allocation of an additional £550k loan from the initial £1.536m of New Homes Bonus funds that have been committed by Council to support the further expansion of the roll out of broadband in the Vale by Aylesbury Vale Broadband in line with the Business Plan reported to Cabinet on 6 September 2016 ([link](#)) and Economy and Business Development Scrutiny Committee on 7 September 2016 ([link](#)).

In line with the Council resolution of 3 December 2014, the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Leader of the Council, is authorised to finalise the detailed arrangements for the implementation of the programme following further discussions and negotiations with the various partners and agencies involved.

The additional loan facility will be used to establish a new Point of Presence in the south of the Vale which will enable the continued rollout of the fibre solution to a further six villages.

Following consideration of the comments made by Cabinet on 6th September and Economy and Business Development Scrutiny on 7th September, and further due diligence by the S151 Officer the Chief Executive has agreed that the scheme should be further supported with the additional loan drawdown facility.

The loan facility, will be at a commercial rate and will be supported with a loan agreement. In addition to the loan repayment, the overall project will over time be expected to generate on going revenue for the Council, which will be declared in the annual accounts that will be presented annually to the scrutiny committee.

Reasons for the decision:

To facilitate the roll out of broadband across another rural area in the south of the Vale by bringing forward a solution to receive ultra fast broadband and at the same time contribute a financial return to the authority.

Alternative options considered:

The alternative option would be to do nothing and leave rural areas to the alternative broadband providers. This is not considered a satisfactory option as these areas have already either been considered as not commercially viable by other providers or they are serviced by poorer performing broadband speeds.

In terms of value for money, speed of delivery and provision of an ultra-fast broadband service to residents of the vale, the AVB option significantly outweighs the alternative options.

Interests and Nature of Interests Declared:

There are none.

Publication date: 26/10/2016

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