
REPORT TO:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 6.
DATE OF MEETING:	14th SEPTEMBER 2011	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO: N/A
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	AMY PLENDERLEITH NIGEL GLOSSOP (EXT. 5703)	DOC: O&S Sep 2011 Broadband.doc
SUBJECT:	BROADBAND IN SOUTH DERBYSHIRE	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: N/A

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Committee notes the on-going work carried out in trying to improve the broadband infrastructure across South Derbyshire.
- 1.2 That the Committee notes the progress of BT/Openreach in upgrading certain areas covered by the Etwall Exchange (which also covers Hilton) by Autumn 2011 to super-fast broadband.
- 1.3 That the Council works with Derbyshire County Council, through BDUK funding, to endeavour to improve the broadband infrastructure in South Derbyshire.
- 1.4 That the Council continues to raise the profile of South Derbyshire, within BT / Openreach and other relevant organisations, in relation to the poor broadband service that is available in many parts of the District.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To advise Members of the on-going work carried out on the review of broadband in South Derbyshire.

3.0 Detail

Background

- 3.1 Since 2008 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has actively been pushing for improved broadband infrastructure in South Derbyshire.
- 3.2 This report provides an update of the progress made in trying to improve the broadband infrastructure in South Derbyshire.

EMDA and RDPE Funding

- 3.3 In September 2010, working in partnership with local organisations the Council placed 2 bids for funding with the East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA) / Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) to improve the broadband infrastructure in Hilton and Overseal.
- 3.4 The bid for Hilton had to be withdrawn, as BT announced that they would shortly be upgrading the Etwall Exchange (which covers Hilton) meaning that the bid no longer fulfilled the relevant criteria for funding
- 3.5 The Council then concentrated on the bid to upgrade the BT Overseal Exchange area. Unfortunately a major funding issue arose for the overall EMDA / RDPE programme around state aid. This meant that the overall programme was cancelled and that no projects have progressed through it.
- 3.6 The details of the project to upgrade the Overseal Exchange has been fed into Derbyshire County Council and the BDUK programme (see 3.10 below) and will hopefully be taken forward under it.

BDUK and Derbyshire County Council

- 3.7 Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK), a team within Department of Culture media and Sport (DCMS), has been set up to deliver the Government's broadband strategy, bringing superfast broadband to all parts of the UK. For information please see http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/telecommunications_and_online/7781.aspx.
- 3.8 BDUK's main role is to allocate and distribute £530m of funding, to bring superfast broadband to the third of UK homes and businesses which won't be provided for by the broadband market and would otherwise miss out. For further information please see http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/news_stories/8389.aspx and http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/news_stories/7502.aspx.
- 3.9 County councils, unitary authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships can apply for a share of the money (this is the smallest sized area that can apply for funding) by developing a local broadband plan setting out how everyone in the area will be provided with superfast broadband access.
- 3.10 Derbyshire County Council submitted an application to BDUK for funding and has received notification that they have been allocated £7.39 million from BDUK, subject to them finding equivalent match funding.
- 3.11 Derbyshire County Council and the Derbyshire Economic Partnership are now working on pulling together a delivery and roll out plan for Derbyshire. They will consult with the District and Borough's across Derbyshire to determine plans in each area.
- 3.12 The Council will now work with Derbyshire County Council and the Derbyshire Economic Partnership to endeavour to improve the broadband infrastructure in South Derbyshire.
- 3.13 It should be noted that the roll out plan for Derbyshire will look at all available technologies and not just to upgrade the existing BT / Openreach Exchanges.

Etwall Exchange

- 3.14 BT / Openreach continue to progress the upgrade of the Etwall Exchange (which covers Hilton) to super-fast broadband and they are still on target to complete this in Autumn 2011.
- 3.15 However, the Etwall exchange area has various green cabinets that are used to provide the telecoms infrastructure required for broadband. Only eight (out of 14) of these green cabinets will be upgraded to super-fast broadband. BT has stated that they will look at other technologies to improve the broadband speeds for these other cabinets, which are located in the more rural areas, although no timescales for this have been given.
- 3.16 BT and the Council plan to work together in promoting the benefits of super-fast broadband to premises impacted by the upgrade of the Etwall Exchange. This will include doing a joint press release highlighting this is available.

Other information

- 3.17 Currently BT has 20 exchanges that serve South Derbyshire. BT has plans to or has upgraded 4 of these exchanges (Etwall, Chellaston, Mickleover and Swadlincote) to super-fast broadband. If the Overseal Exchange upgrade happens this will then leave 15 exchanges areas unable to supply super-fast broadband.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 None arising directly from this report.

5.0 Background Papers

- 5.1 The reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 7th May 2008, 25th June 2008, 17th September 2008 and the 10th December 2009 detail the findings and outcomes of the 2008 review.
- 5.2 The reports and/or presentations on the 9th December 2009, 20th January 2010, 24th March 2010, 12th May 2010 and 27th October 2010 detail the further progress made. Additionally verbal updates have been given as required at Overview and Scrutiny Committees.