**From: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

### Circulated to: ALL LEICESTERSHIRE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

**Date: 21 October 2016**

**Superfast LEICESTERSHIRE Broadband UPDATE**

**Purpose**

1. The purpose of this update is to provide a summary of progress on the Superfast Leicestershire broadband programme (a partnership between Leicestershire County Council, district councils, BT and the Government).
2. You are welcome to share this update with constituents. It complements updates provided on the Superfast Leicestershire website and briefings issued to County Councillors and district councils.

**Update**

1. The Superfast Leicestershire programme is being delivered across two phases (known as Contract 1 and Contract 2). The Contract 1 rollout of superfast fibre broadband finished in March 2016. The Contract 2 rollout will run from April 2016 to December 2017.
2. Contract 1 was delivered on time, significantly under budget and brought access to fibre broadband to more properties than had been originally planned (65,000, including 7,000 businesses). The economic benefit for the county is estimated to be worth £20 for every £1 spent. In total, Contract 1 has cost over £10m.
3. Take-up of newly available fibre broadband has been much better than anticipated. Take-up is now at 34% and contractual gainshare mechanisms mean that £2m is being made available by BT for reinvestment. This is on top of a further £3.6m including efficiency savings and other funding which will be used to extend the reach of superfast broadband further.
4. Since April 2016, work is underway to deliver the second phase of the programme known as the Contract 2 rollout. This will include:
* 11,000 county premises gaining fibre access
* 9,000 properties in Leicester City being connected
* Over 400 structures planned; a mixture of Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) and Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) solutions
* An additional 4,000 businesses served
1. The programme has continued at speed, and to date:
* 100 fibre cabinets have been installed
* 70 of which are now live and receiving orders (serving around 4000 properties across the county)
* Around 55 miles of new fibre cabling has been deployed
1. An interactive map is available on the Superfast Leicestershire website which shows existing and planned coverage. Residents and business can enter their postcode for the latest coverage information for their area.

[www.superfastleicestershire.org.uk/when-and-where/](http://www.superfastleicestershire.org.uk/when-and-where/)

The map and the website have undergone a recent overhaul in response to feedback from parish councils and residents. Bi-weekly updates are also available in the news section of the website or by email for those who have registered:

[www.superfastleicestershire.org.uk/register-for-notifications/](http://www.superfastleicestershire.org.uk/register-for-notifications/)

**Business Update**

1. The County Council are supporting a European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) bid to establish a digital business support project. If successful the project will be delivered in partnership with, and led by the East Midlands Chamber (EMC). This will provide digital business support activities and will include technology grants and connection vouchers. The project is currently being evaluated and it is hoped that it will receive final approvals by the end of 2016.

**Other News**

1. A second ESIF funding bid under the “Financial and Digital Inclusion” theme has been approved. Led by the Council’s Library Service it will bolster the county’s Digital Champion network. The network will promote digital inclusion and offer digital support and training to those accessing Work Clubs.
2. The Council’s ‘Better Broadband Subsidy Scheme’ has been updated to include a number of government approved wireless providers as well as existing approved satellite operators. The scheme, administered in partnership by the Council and government, provides subsidised broadband packages to those currently receiving less than 2Mbps speeds.
3. The most recent Superfast Leicestershire Stakeholder Forum was held in July 2016. The forum provides an opportunity for the Council’s Broadband Project Team to engage with parish councils and the public. The next meeting will take place on 5 December 216 at 5.45pm in the Council Chamber at County Hall, Glenfield. All are welcome, however, it is recommended that constituents book a place by contacting: broadband@leics.gov.uk

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