

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Award of Grant to Lingen Community Broadband Revised
Date of decision:	29/10/19
Decision maker:	Natalia Silver, Assistant Director Corporate Support
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Herefordshire Council's Constitution (19 May 2017) Scheme of Delegation, Part 3: Section 7 – Officer Functions: 3.7.5 Operational decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is within an approved budget • Is not in conflict with the council's policies, strategies or relevant service plans <p>Delegated authority from report (link) of 19th January 2017: <i>the assistant director communities be given delegated authority to, following consultation with the cabinet member economy and corporate services to take all operational decisions within the approved budget to implement stage 4 of the Fastershire broadband strategy.</i></p>
Ward:	Mortimer
Consultation:	Cabinet Member Environment, Economy and Skills
Decision made:	To award a grant to Lingen Community Broadband of £12,691.12 inclusive of VAT.
Reasons for decision:	<p>Herefordshire Council through the Fastershire project is investing in the broadband network across the county.</p> <p>The decision made on the 19th January 2017 outlined stage 4 of the programme. Though primarily concerned with contract award to commercial provider the phase also included grants as a way of enabling superfast broadband coverage supporting residents and businesses. Within the report this outlined as "Additionally mechanisms will be maintained and expanded to create "demand led" solutions through bespoke grants".</p> <p>This Grant will enable 2 x 500Mbps leased lines to be procured from Airband (the result of a compliant procurement process) to provide backhaul to Lingen Community Broadband existing radio network. The result will be twofold - it will extend Airband's network deeper into north west Herefordshire but critically will significantly improve the capacity of an existing radio network that reaches some parts of the county that Fastershire's current fibre plans will not.</p> <p>This is an increase in the previous decision of 19 September 2019 to accommodate a slight change in costs and VAT. The original cost was up to £8,000.</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost of this grant will be covered within existing budgets • The grant has been evaluated by the Fastershire team as offering value for money • Grant conditions will be included in an offer letter
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	The alternative option is to wait for the following phases of broadband delivery to premises in the area. This is not recommended as this will cause delays for that community when a solution is readily available. It also means that a local project is supported.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed..... Date: 29/10/19