

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	To commission the scoping of a long range, low power network for Herefordshire.
Date of decision:	3 rd June 2020
Decision maker:	Director of Adults and Communities
Authority for delegated decision:	Herefordshire Council Constitution Part 3 Section 7.6 & Appendix 1 SA02 of the Chief Executive Scheme of Delegation which provides the responsibility for decision making for specific service re-design and improvement which this decision supports. The cost of the work is under the limit set out in the financial procedure rules.
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	Consultation has been undertaken with cabinet members and portfolio holders
Decision made:	To commission Kenetic 6 to complete a scoping exercise and produce a report into the potential development of a long range, low power network for Herefordshire and the benefits it can deliver for the county, its residents and its economy.
Reasons for decision:	<p>The technology and digital programme for Adults and Communities is developing our use of technology to support people to live independently within their communities and reduce the need for formal care packages. Herefordshire doesn't not have full coverage for residents from any one type of connectivity which means that some residents are currently excluded from maximising their opportunities for independence with some technologies.</p> <p>While coverage is increasing it is unlikely that full coverage will ever be reached through 4g/5g or broadband.</p> <p>A wide area network would provide the opportunity for all residents to have access to some of the technologies we are looking at and could form an essential part of a complementary digital infrastructure.</p> <p>It could also provide the Council with the opportunity to improve services and save money in other areas of its work and support the economy of the county.</p> <p>Work is now needed to scope the possibility and to understand the business case for such developments.</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	Scoping work is expected to take a period of three months and will enable the council to make a decision as to whether it will be a sound investment to develop such a network. Should that be the case the risk of significant delay will impact on the council's ability to deliver savings on investment. Kenetic 6 have committed to delivering the work to explicit time periods.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	Kenetic 6 are a Herefordshire based company and have a very strong track record in developing long range, wide area, low power networks and can provide this scoping work to us at a competitive cost.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed..... Date:

Please ensure that signatures are redacted before publishing.