

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Fastershire Resource Support for Street Works
Date of decision:	25 February 2021
Decision maker:	Assistant Director Corporate Support
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Chief Executive Scheme of Delegation – point SA78 delegated authority to Assistant Director Corporate Support for County-wide broadband deployment and digital inclusion.</p> <p>Delegated authority to the Assistant Director Corporate Support to take operational decision to delivery recommendation (a) within cabinet decision report of 18 December 2019.</p>
Ward:	All
Consultation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways Engineering Manager • BBLP
Decision made:	To award £56.2k to BBLP in order to bolster the Streetworks Team and enable them to support the acceleration of the county's broadband deployment.
Reasons for decision:	<p>Fastershire is entering a period of high activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gigaclear are moving into South Herefordshire and, we are assured, will be accelerating their ongoing work in the north of the county; • Airband are progressing through the county and have just engaged a strategic contractor to accelerate their pace; • Full Fibre Ltd are continuing their work in Leominster, have moved into Ledbury and are now committed to deliver Ross on Wye; and • ZZOOMM have begun their full fibre deployment for the entirety of Hereford City alongside a less specific announcement from Openreach in the same area. <p>All of these operators will be working intensively in Herefordshire during 2021 and 2022. This is excellent news for the county's digital connectivity bringing associated benefits to the Herefordshire economy, environment and society but it will be a period of significant pressure on the highway network that needs to be managed effectively during this period.</p> <p>The Network Management: Streetworks & Licensing Team is a small team of 2 within BBLP that processes notices from utilities and manages the coordination of street works across the county. They are currently spending a significant amount of time already supporting our broadband providers. The NSW Technician estimates that 40-50% of their time is taken processing broadband related notices.</p> <p>When the anticipated exponential rise in activity manifests in more noticing requests, this will put increasing strain on the BBLP team and backlogs in the processing of notices. This risks delays to the deployment and missing opportunities to coordinate between the suppliers generating efficiencies for the broadband build. These might include for instance minimising the conflict between the broadband build and existing and planned Section 58s.</p> <p>The council to contribute to the cost of undertaking bridge surveys where our providers are crossing structures. Also, an additional NRSWA Inspector role for a 12 month period and a dedicated</p>

	<p>Fastershire Streetworks Coordinator role again for a 12 month period and focused solely on the work of broadband providers.</p> <p>Job descriptions for both roles have been provided.</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Role</th> <th style="text-align: right;">FY 21/22</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>NRSWA Inspector</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£28k</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fastershire Streetworks Coordinator</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£25k</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bridge Surveys</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£3.2k</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£56.2k</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The contribution of £56,200 is committed to BBLP from the Fastershire capital budget to support 2 roles and additional bridge survey capability subject to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These roles working exclusively on the broadband programme for the county • Regular reports being provided to the Fastershire team on their activity and • Attendance at the Fastershire Strategic Operations meetings. 	Role	FY 21/22	NRSWA Inspector	£28k	Fastershire Streetworks Coordinator	£25k	Bridge Surveys	£3.2k	Total	£56.2k
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<p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</p>	<p>Finance: The £56,200 funding would be taken from the existing Fastershire capital budget.</p> <p>Equality: one of the main barriers to digital inclusion is broadband coverage. Therefore more efficient and fast coverage is the key goal which this decision supports</p>										
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>That this contribution is not made. If that is the case there could be a reduction in quality and timescale for delivery.</p>										
<p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p>	<p>None</p>										

Signed..... Date: 25 February 2021