

# CDS Programme Board

## Summary for publication

**Date:** 24 January 2019

**Time:** 3pm – 5pm

**Venue:** Taunton Quaker Meeting House.

**Chair:** Pat Flaherty, Chief Executive Somerset County Council

**Attendees:** Pat Flaherty, Somerset County Council; Councillor David Hall, Somerset County Council; Councillor Rufus Gilbert, Devon County Council; Councillor Tom Killen; Mendip District Council; Councillor Philip Bullivant, Teignbridge District Council; Councillor John Williams, Taunton Deane and West Somerset Council; Justin Leese, BDUK; John Wilkinson Bath and North East Somerset Council, Alex Hearn, North Somerset Council;

CDS Team: Keri Denton, Phil Roberts, Peter Doyle, Matt Barrow and Nathaniel Lucas

Item	Title
1	Apologies: Michele Cusack, SCC; Steve Mullineaux South Hams District Council, Lionel Spencer BDUK; Councillor Nigel Ashton North Somerset District Council; Phil Norrey Devon County Council; Katriona Lovelock, Somerset County Council;
2	<p><b>Phase 2 Contract update</b></p> <p>The ongoing delays to delivery in all the Gigaclear contracts was discussed and the progress update provided by Gigaclear at the Strategy Board towards a recovery plan. The company's perception of cost escalation is an issue for Gigaclear and their investors. Visibility on their cost assumptions is needed. Gigaclear are working on a revised design in support of achieving a proposed recovery position. CDS Board are very disappointed with the performance of Gigaclear and the delays being faced as a consequence across all communities. The situation is not acceptable and Gigaclear remain in default. Pending a satisfactory outcome CDS is withholding public subsidy. Ongoing dialogue and workshops are taking place between the respective teams in an effort to achieve a proposed solution. Weekly calls are taking place between the Gigaclear CEO and the CDS Programme Director. BDUK are fully aware of the situation and are supportive of making the case for a funding extension to the current Grants awarded to CDS which have a deadline of March 2020 currently. BDUK will continue to work with the CDS team on securing a way forward. A business case is being submitted to Treasury and a meeting with the Digital Minister and BDUK is being arranged for the CDS team through Rebecca Pow, MP for Taunton Deane.</p> <p>Legal advice was presented on the options open to CDS given the current circumstances. It was agreed to continue to work with Gigaclear to find a solution. Concerns raised over impacts on timescales, coverage and any changes in technology were all noted and would be important considerations to ensure State Aid and procurement compliance.</p>

	<p>Acknowledgement that 31 cabinet areas remain in deployment, with Gigaclear working at risk. Revised timescales are needed to be provided by Gigaclear as a priority and provided to residents.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CDS to require Gigaclear to update their information to residents in the 31s cabinet areas in build</li> <li>- Engagement with BDUK and MPs to support a funding extension to be undertaken by the team.</li> <li>- CDS team to keep legal situation under review.</li> </ul>
3.	<p><b>Voucher Scheme</b></p> <p>A proposal was presented for CDS to join the national Better Broadband Scheme. Eligibility requirements are for premises with speeds registered as lower than 2 Mbps and not in a subsidised programme in the next 12 months. Benefitting from a voucher for a basic broadband solution does not stop a home or business benefitting from Next Generation Access solutions in the future. The national scheme launches in April 2019.</p> <p>This proposal was approved.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CDS and BDUK to agree the approach and engagement of suppliers</li> <li>- CDS to draft communications to make this announcement.</li> </ul>
4	<p><b>Gainshare Update</b></p> <p>An update on the proposal from BT to introduce the first tranche of Clawback was presented to the Board. This would be delivered by BT without a procurement exercise as part of a national agreement between the National Competence Centre and the EU Commission. Following the completion of a public consultation a Change Request had been raised with BT and their proposal indicated an additional 2000 premises could be served with a full fibre solution. As previously agreed areas with significantly low speeds and with higher levels of deprivation had been targeted.</p> <p>CDS Board agreed the proposal.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CDS to proceed with a final agreement with BT and subject to due diligence by BDUK enter into a change agreement with BT</li> </ul>
5.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>None</p>
6	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>11 April 2019</p>