

CDS Programme Board
Summary for publication

Date: 17th October 2019

Time: 12.30pm – 14.30pm

Venue: Somerset County Council.

Chair: Councillor Rufus Gilbert, Devon County Council

Attendees: Councillor David Hall, Somerset County Council; Michele Cusack, Somerset County Council; Councillor Rufus Gilbert, Devon County Council; Councillor Charles Nuttall, Teignbridge District Council; Sharon D’Arcy, Mendip District Council; Councillor Peter Goater, Mendip District Council; Rob Dawson, Bath and North East Somerset Council; Councillor Mike Caswell, Sedgemoor District Council; Alex Hearn, North Somerset Council; Fran Mussellwhite, Bevan Brittan; Lionel Spencer, BDUK

CDS Team: Keri Denton, Edward Cross, Phil Roberts, Peter Doyle, Matt Barrow and Amy Pettit

Item	Title
1.	Apologies: Pat Flaherty, Chief Executive Somerset County Council, Phil Norrey, Devon County Council
2.	Phase 2 Contract Update General discussion about the termination of Gigaclear contracts Decision: CDS team to take further legal advice on the position. General discussion regarding communications about the termination of contracts with Gigaclear and restrictions imposed by legacy contract clauses. Gigaclear have been in touch with local councillors to confirm they will continue building in areas where work has already started.
3.	New procurement Work continues on the open market review. Final assessment of data provided by the commercial sector has been submitted and being analysed by BDUK. CDS will be able to issue a defined intervention area once this work is complete. BDUK are also reviewing the planned public consultation letter which, once approved, will be launched on the CDS website for a min of one month in advance of the procurement process officially starting. This is a state aid requirement.

	<p>CDS has increased its engagement with the market following the termination of the Gigaclear contracts. A number of aspects are being tested to find what would be attractive to the market including Lot areas, and number of premises per lot. Lot 4 and Dartmoor and Exmoor areas will not be part of this phase of procurement because they are already benefitting from Phase 2 funding, however the engagement is covering options to extend coverage into these areas at a later date. In the next round of supplier engagement more detailed information will be presented to suppliers to ensure the invitation to tender is as attractive as possible. Some discussion on lessons learnt from the Gigaclear contracts and what can be done differently.</p> <p>General discussion of alternative procurement options including negotiated procurement and open procurement process and need to meet timescales of the National Broadband Scheme. Looking to knowledge share with other departments and local authorities.</p> <p>General discussion about funding and approach and how to align with the emerging national approach and policy for Gigabit capable networks, voucher schemes and an Outside In approach targeting There is a risk of overbuilding premises which benefitted via Phase 1, BT which will be considered in the design of requirements for the new procurement.</p>
4.	<p>Communications</p> <p>Media coverage following the termination of the Gigaclear contracts, is felt to have been fair on the whole. There has been a need to correct some inaccurate information.</p> <p>The Digital Minister requested a meeting and some Board and CDS members and local MPs met with him in Yeovil on the 24th September. They discussed the situation with Gigaclear and the plans going forward. The Minister confirmed his commitment to delivering future broadband infrastructure in Devon and Somerset and his intention to present the case to Treasury to extend CDS funding. This was backed by the MPs in attendance. CDS made the timetable clear and the importance of the funding extension to CDS plans. General discussion on the Government voucher schemes and whether further clarity for suppliers and residents might encourage better take up in CDS region.</p>
5.	AOB
6.	Date of next meeting: December 2019