

## **Better Broadband for Bucks – BSPIG briefing note- 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2010**

### **1. Recent project progress**

- 1.1. Discussions held with BT Openreach to establish 13 Bucks exchanges which are to be upgraded with 'fibre to the cabinet' (listed in section 3). Assuming all of these are delivered they will provide High Speed coverage to some 50% of premises around the county. Note that of course there still remains a significant rural population that these do not reach. Analysis of postcodes from above is underway to clarify new list of not/poor spots
- 1.2. Demonstration and meeting held with Openreach and Planners/Transport from each council to confirm process for notices/installation of cabinets and contacts.
- 1.3. Visits and discussions with Yorkshire Forward, Nynet and Rutland Telecom to understand their experiences and approaches

### **2. Key activity for next 3 months**

- 2.1. Preparation of an options paper describing the possible types of business operating model (e.g. JV, not for profit company, other SPV etc) that can deliver services on the back of public sector intervention.
- 2.2. Invitation to tender and supplier selection for tactical solutions for a number of 'poor spot' areas. Then subject to agreement of prioritisation criteria, authorise go-ahead for those areas
- 2.3. Scope a piece of work for cost analysis and solution feasibility study for potential to deliver a combined Public Sector Communications Network (PSN) based on aggregated demand of a range of partners (Councils, Fire, Schools, NHS etc) an extension of which could be used for delivery of broadband services to residents and businesses – subject to cooperation of partners. Background work investigating the experiences in Wales and other locations where this has become an established model is underway to inform the debate.
- 2.4. Market test the likely options for strategic solutions which do not rely upon the aggregated core PSN above.
- 2.5. Each of the above will contribute to the picture of just what ultimate funding interventions will be required to achieve the project aims. At this stage it is difficult to establish.
- 2.6. As an indication, Given the nature of rural solutions, whether FTTC or wireless, they need to be considered in geographical blocks of approx 5 km square<sup>1</sup>. Each such area will encompass a wide range of numbers of premises due to the dispersed nature of Bucks population maybe 60 - 200. However, each such area may require between £25k and £50k to install a solution.
- 2.7. Continue with organised visits to BT Showcase Centre for education and briefing of interested parties

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<sup>1</sup> Clearly this is an approximation and in practice it depends on the topology for wireless coverage, or the area covered by street cabinets for fttc.

### **3. BT Openreach exchanges to be upgraded for High Speed (FTTC)**

Aylesbury  
Henley on Thames  
Gerrards Cross  
Holmer Green  
High Wycombe  
Burnham  
Penn  
Bourne End  
Marlow  
Slough  
Amersham  
Chesham  
Beaconsfield