

Connecting Devon and Somerset Programme Board Response to:

Devon County Council

Corporate Infrastructure & Regulatory Services

Broadband and Mobile Task Group Report March 2018

Scrutiny Committee

Recommendation	CDS Response	Note
1. Improved Dialogue between CDS, Providers and the Public		
a) Arrange a stakeholder meeting within next six weeks in each lot, plus national parks with contracted suppliers	<p>CDS Board cannot commit to take on this recommendation, but perfectly understands and supports the need for improved and more regular communication with residents and businesses. The resources required to complete this recommendation and on an annual basis cannot be funded within the operating budget agreed for the programme across partners.</p> <p><i>In addition to the community engagement activity CDS undertakes, working with contractors, CDS Board has agreed to arrange a single stakeholder event with both contractors. CDS considers stakeholders to be the funding partners in the programme.</i></p>	<p>Partially Accepted</p> <p><i>Alternative Action</i></p>
b) Produce a quarterly newsletter to be published in parish magazines and on the CDS website, per LOT and in the national parks	CDS Board supports this recommendation and will begin to issue a quarterly newsletter by LOT for publication on the CDS website. The newsletter will also be provided to parish councils for consideration and use in their newsletters and other communications. The first newsletter will be produced during Q2 18/19.	Accepted
c) Use social media to inform residents on roll out progress	CDS has existing social media accounts and will utilise these channels to update on progress as and when appropriate. CDS will also encourage Gigaclear and Airband to use these forms of communication too.	Accepted
d) Publish this report on the CDS Website	CDS Board recognises that each authority within the CDS Partnership has a scrutiny function and will provide links from the CDS website to the relevant scrutiny pages / reports for each funding partner. Such a link will be made to this DCC Scrutiny Report	Partially Accepted

Recommendation	CDS Response	Note
2. Improved Transparency of decision making		
a) Publish on CDS website the unredacted action notes for 4 meetings	CDS Board has considered this recommendation but it is not able to accept this given the confidential nature of the four meetings requested.	Not Accepted
b) Ensure that Board action notes are published on the CDS website within a week	<p>CDS Board will publish agendas, meeting notes and a decisions log onto the CDS website. It will aim to undertake to publish meeting notes as promptly as possible.</p> <p><i>CDS Board has also agreed to provide links from the CDS website to the appropriate decisions taken by Somerset County Council in its role as Accountable Body for the programme.</i></p>	<p>Partially Accepted</p> <p><i>Additional Action</i></p>
c) Publish the Audit report dated Sept 2015 onto the CDS website	CDS Board accepts this recommendation. The report has been published on the website.	Accepted
3. Meaningful consultation on Gainshare		
a) CDS commit specific personnel to carry out a meaningful consultation with communities on options to introduce gainshare	CDS Board has already completed a public consultation for the Gainshare sums proposed to be introduced for additional superfast coverage. This is required as part of the state aid compliancy and has now concluded. The consultation was open to the public for comment and responses are currently being assessed to help support the introduction of these sums.	Partially Accepted.
4. Better Digital Skills for Communities		
a) CDS be requested to secure further funding to provide digital skills workshops for communities across Devon	CDS Board agrees with the importance of providing support for communities and businesses to fully adopt and utilise new digital infrastructure. CDS has submitted a funding bid into the European Programme for Regional Development which has an outline approval. CDS is in conversation with Government to finalise the programme, funding package and compliance.	Accepted

Recommendation	CDS Response	Note
5. Remove the cost threshold for Broadband USO		
a) Widen the USO to all premises in Devon and right to request at least 30 Mbps	CDS Board notes this recommendation. It is however addressed specifically to DCC and not to CDS Board for consideration. The ambition is supported and recognised by the CDS Board and partners will wish to work with DCC to take this forward.	Not applicable
6. All new development in Devon to provide superfast broadband access to homes		
a) Develop a co-ordinated and pragmatic approach across the county council, districts and national parks to broadband infrastructure planning	CDS Board notes this recommendation. It is however addressed specifically to DCC and not to CDS Board for consideration.	Not applicable
7. Clarity and Transparency on commercial plans		
a) Lobby Government to require all wholesale providers to publish broadband and mobile infrastructure roll out plans	CDS Board notes this recommendation. It is however addressed specifically to DCC and not to CDS Board for consideration.	Not applicable

