

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – RESOURCES**

21 July 2016

Report of the Director of Legal Services

Review of Broadband Access in Derbyshire

1. Purpose of the Report

To inform Members of the scope of a review of broadband access in Derbyshire.

2 Information

The Committee, at its meeting on 26 May 2016, discussed the importance of a reliable broadband services being available to all communities. It was agreed that a review would be undertaken of broadband access in Derbyshire which would consider the effectiveness of the Digital Derbyshire programme (so far) in delivering affordable broadband provision to rural areas.

Through consulting local residents and businesses the review will assess how rural businesses and communities have benefitted from access to high speed internet following the rollout of the Digital Derbyshire programme.

Consideration will be given to;

- How well rural communities are connected;
- How businesses are benefitting from the Digital Derbyshire programme
- What plans are in place to provide affordable alternative solutions to rural areas where the broadband service has not been upgraded

Evidence will be gathered from numerous sources, including;

- Cabinet Member for Highways Transport and Infrastructure
- Digital Derbyshire programme Lead(s)
- Derbyshire businesses and residents (particularly those located in rural areas)
- Providers (and community representatives with experience) of community based initiatives that deliver reliable broadband speeds to “hard to reach” rural areas.

The review will be completed by January 2017.

A working group will be appointed by this Committee to undertake the review and submit progress reports and a final report to the full Committee at the conclusion of the review.

3. Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, human relations, legal and human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

4. Officer's Recommendations

The Committee is requested to;

- (1) Agree the scope of the review of broadband access in Derbyshire, and;
- (2) Appoint Members of the Committee to the review working group.

John McElvaney
Director of Legal Services