

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

### **You asked:**

**Has the local authority made an assessment of the likelihood of completing the objectives set out by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Rural Broadband programme? If so, please release those documents.**

Leicester City Council has made an assessment based on BDUK data on the potential coverage of Superfast Broadband in the City. Some of this data is subject to a signed non-disclosure agreement (NDA) between Leicester City Council and BDUK, and the originators of the data. A signed Non-disclosure agreement is also in place between British Telecommunications plc and Leicester City Council as they have supplied confidential data. Confidential data has also been supplied by Virgin Media Ltd.

Leicester City Council can disclose that, based on our analysis, Leicester City has an estimated potential coverage of 89% delivery points who may have access to superfast broadband. The substantive data and mapping is subject to the NDA however I have included a copy of a presentation that was made to local stakeholders. Certain maps and data presented have been redacted as per the NDA as the data behind them are covered by the NDA which is commercially sensitive data relating to BT's roll-out programme. This information is exempt under s41 and s43 of the Freedom of Information Act or Reg 12(5)(e) of the Environmental Information Regulations. It is not in the public interest for Leicester City Council to breach a confidentiality agreement and face potential costs as a result of this.

What stage is your local authority at in the preparation and procurement of its broadband delivery plan(s). [in accordance with BDUK's Programme Delivery Model document, paragraph 7.3.3]

Leicester City Council in discussions with Leicestershire County Council regarding our participation in the Rural Broadband Programme for the County. At this stage we have not reached an agreement on participating in their programme in a formal capacity nor are we yet to agree participation in their procurement exercise.

Leicester City Council is currently developing a Digital Leicester strategy which will set out our objectives for broadband in the city and refer to any linkages to the Rural Broadband Programme. The strategy will include, if necessary, a procurement plan which will have to be approved by the City Mayor.

**How many bids have been received as part of any broadband implementation project?**

Leicester City Council is not presently participating in a procurement exercise for a broadband implementation project.

**Have any consultants have been employed to work on the rural broadband programme by your local authority, and if so, what is the cost of that consultancy?**

Leicester City Council is not presently a formal partner to the Rural Broadband Programme nor are we in contract with any consultancy to advise us on our broadband planning.

**Whether the local authority has considered working with adjacent authorities as part of its local broadband plan or any other work on broadband infrastructure, what steps it has taken achieve this, and what the outcome was.**

As stated Leicester City Council is considering its position in relation to the Rural Broadband programme and the potential to work in partnership with the County Council. The City Council has not entered into any formal arrangements at this stage.

**What steps the local authority has taken to identify available EU funds for broadband infrastructure projects, what funding has been applied for, and what funding has been secured.**

Leicester City Council's Economic Regeneration team has submitted an ERDF outline application. If successful this will provide a demand stimulation and business support project to assist SME's understand SFBB and the implications to their business. The application is requesting £112,064 ERDF as part of a total project value of £280,618.

The outline proposal was submitted on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012 and the City Council will be notified of the outcome of the application appraisal in January/February 2013.

This project is not formally linked to the Rural Broadband Programme but will deliver activities within the context of both national and local broadband programmes.

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